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You're Looking at Country...

After nearly a decade of working on travel, fashion and health magazines, I feel like I've come home.

I was born on a mountain—well, in a hospital on a mountain—in Beckley, West Virginia. I spent my early years chasing frogs (and the occasional boy) in the woods and belly flopping into the lake from my trusted tire swing. I was fearless and free.

And my heart belonged to one man: Tommy Lee Jones (aka Doolittle Lynn from the film *Coal Miner's Daughter*).

A few years later my family moved to Philadelphia—and I became, for all intents and purposes, a city girl. But I always held on to my Southern roots and a love for the simpler things in life. From the **Log Home Design Ideas** readers I've met so far, that's something we have in common.

Whether your dream is to build a rustic weekend getaway or a full-time log home, the LHDI staff wants to help. Based on your feedback, we recently remodeled the magazine to make it even more practical, inspirational and fun. (Yes, fun.) We're talking gorgeous photography, expert tips, clip-and-save checklists and many other user-friendly tools to help you design your log home, from floorplan to furnishings.

So, how are we doing? After reading this issue, let us know what you think of the "new" **Log Home Design Ideas**. Love it? We welcome compliments! Think we've missed the mark? Tell us how we can improve.

After all, this is your magazine. Please make yourself at home.

Jessica

jbizik@lhdi.com

p.s. Love showing off photos of your finished log home? Send some our way. We may contact you for an upcoming article in the magazine.

GOT ANSWERS?

New for 2005, we'll be asking readers to share their stories through the LHDI Question of the Month. For January, please tell us:

>> What's the biggest lesson you've learned about building a custom log home?

Just log onto our web site at www.lhdi.com to answer. We'll highlight responses in a future issue of **Log Home Design Ideas**.

LOG HOME DESIGN IDEAS

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HOMEFRONT

BY JESSICA BIZIK



MATERIALWORLD

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Photographer **William Wegman** has immortalized his beloved Weimereiners—Man Ray, Fay Ray and the Ray pups—who appear in calendars and coffeetable books wearing bathing suits, bridal gowns and other elaborate get-ups. Now Wegman is partnering with **Crypton Super Fabrics** on a line of indestructible (at least to kids and pets) upholstery featuring his own doggone line drawings. Six patterns, \$52 a yard. **Coming soon:** tote bags, carriers and dog beds, too. 800-279-7866, cryptonfabric.com.

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Mountain Showdown

Reality TV is climbing to new heights with **"Girls V. Boys: Montana."** During the third season of this teens-only team competition, the kids will battle for prizes in *City-Slicker*-style challenges (log rolling, anyone?), while living in a picturesque log home by the Yellowstone River. The show premieres December 3 on **The N** (MTV's nighttime network for teens and tweens). www.the-n.com.



REQUIRED READING

To buy these and other great titles, visit the **Log Home Design Ideas Bookstore** at lhdi.com, or call 800-850-7279.

Oh, Susanka!

Best-selling author Sarah Susanka (*The Not So Big House*) wants to build up your architectural prowess with **Home By Design**—her latest tome, which offers 27 key elements to transform any house into a home. Incredibly detailed yet jargon-free, the book is divided into three major areas—space, light and order—each punctuated with stunning photography.

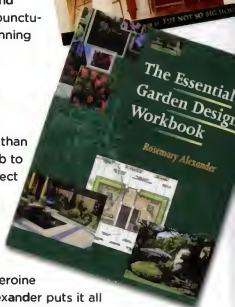


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Ruggedly Handsome.

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glass hurricanes (pictured above). 800-426-8020, eddiebauerhome.com.

Worldly Pursuits.

When I was a little girl, I used to read the **J. Peterman** catalog—ogling the artful illustrations and dreaming of an exotic African safari with its mysterious main man. (Of course, that was before "Seinfeld" spoofed him on national TV!) These days the elusive Mr. P (yes, he really exists) can be found promoting his new 32-piece Jeffco Furniture line, which ranges from rancher chic to globetrotter glam. 888-647-2555, jpeterman.com.



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Floor Bored?

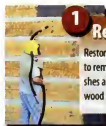
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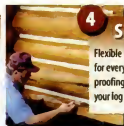
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www.theloghomeshow.com

Editor's Picks

GREAT IDEAS FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS

BY SARA SCOTT

1 Bear Necessities

This is not your average bear. Named for the American Indian tribe that once inhabited Yosemite, the **Miwok Brown Bear Foot Stool** is super-cuddly (made from the softest lambs-wool) and strong (can hold up to 200 pounds). \$450. 209-372-1354, yosemitgifts.com



2 Foot Warmer

Just looking at this whimsical **Snowshoes Area Rug** makes our toes feel toasty. Part of the Lifestyles Collection by outdoorsman-artist Dick Idol, the loop-hooked wool rug is sold by Capel Incorporated, where you'll also find designs by North Carolina painter Bob Timberlake. 800-382-6574, capelrugs.com



3 Be My Guest

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Brian Jensen Illustration

Build Now, Pay Later

THE INTEREST-ONLY MORTGAGE ALLOWS BUYERS TO FINANCE THEIR LOG HOMES, WHILE WAITING TO PAY ON THE PRINCIPAL. BY CHARLES BEVIER

It's a common situation: You don't want to wait 'til retirement to enjoy that log cabin in the mountains, but you can't comfortably carry two full mortgages. Or maybe the kids' tuition is draining your bank account. It may seem as if building your dream home is just that...a dream. But for some, taking out an interest-only loan can help make it a reality.

With an interest-only mortgage,

you delay paying on the principal for up to 10 years. The resulting monthly payment is a fraction of what you'd pay each month for a 30-year, fixed-rate loan. This financial strategy allows many consumers to own two homes, then sell one in a few years to pay the principal on the other. It can also benefit families who are saddled with college tuition costs (or other cash-depleting circumstances) by put-

ting off the principal payments until things clear up.

Sound intriguing? You've just discovered why interest-only loans are the latest buzz in lending circles. Although these mortgages aren't new, their payment flexibility has made them much more popular in recent years.

"Borrowers who opt for interest-only loans tend to be financially savvy clients with good credit," explains Andrew D. West, financial advisor and partner in the West/Pincombe Group, which offers mortgage financing for log homes through Merrill Lynch. "They are people who have better uses

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for their money than paying off a 6-percent fixed-rate mortgage."

How & Why It Works

The 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage is as American as apple pie—making up a full 75 percent of all mortgage loans. Yet it may not be the smartest tool at your disposal. Lenders have developed more sophisticated products, including five- to 30-year fixed rates, one- to 10-year adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs), jumbos, biweeklies, and on and on.

Interest-only loans fall under this creative-financing umbrella. By combining interest-only payments with lower ARM rates, lenders can offer monthly payments that are hundreds of dollars lower than the payment for a traditional fixed-rate mortgage.

Here's a hypothetical example: A

\$205,000 home with 30-year fixed-rate mortgage at a rate of 6.25 percent would require monthly payments of \$1,262.22. That same \$205,000 home with an interest-only loan and 3.25 percent ARM would cost just \$555.21 a month—a savings of nearly \$8,500 a year.

Much like a conventional 30-year fixed mortgage, the interest-only loan can cover both the construction and the permanent mortgage. Many lenders also offer single-close construction-permanent loans, which can save you money on rates and fees.

If you're still in the home at the end of the interest-only period, you'll have to start paying off the principal. The interest-only portion of the loan can vary from five to 10 years. Once that time period runs out, your monthly payments will be considerably

larger because the principal will be amortized over a shorter period.

"By deferring principal, borrowers can improve cash flow and leverage their finances," says Mike Cole with the System-Built division of M&T Bank, which offers loan programs for log home buyers. "It allows people to take equity out of their home early on and invest it to create wealth for the future."

Interest-only home loans come in a spectrum of fixed and adjustable rates and amortization schedules. You may want to use an interest-only option to finance 100 percent of your home purchase and avoid private mortgage insurance (PMI), which is required if you don't own 20 percent of the home (either in cash as a downpayment or in equity). You can obtain 100 percent financing with two mortgage loans, financing 80 percent



Our logs are casualties of time,
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with one and 20 percent with a second. Either one (or both) can be interest-only to save you on monthly payments.

Saving Serious Dollars

If you're really interested in saving money, opt for an interest-only loan and make voluntary payments toward the principal from the start, advises West of the West/Pincombe Group.

Compare an interest-only mortgage at 3.25 percent and a 30-year fixed at 6.25 percent on the \$205,000 home: If you upped your payment on the interest-only loan from \$555.21 to \$1,262.22 a month (the 30-year monthly payment), you'd save \$32,335.83 over the conventional loan by the fifth year.

While West points out that these savings are not guaranteed (since the

3.25 percent is an adjustable rate), this example does show how much a consumer can save over the conventional 30-year, fixed-rate loan.

West isn't the only one urging consumers to consider other loan

than fixed-rate mortgages during the past decade," said Greenspan, according to a February 23, 2004, article in *The Wall Street Journal*. His rationale: although fixed-rate mortgages protect against higher interest rates, home

Much like a conventional 30-year fixed mortgage, the interest-only loan can cover both the construction and the permanent mortgage.

options. In a recent speech to credit union executives, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan suggested that the certainty of fixed-rate mortgages may not be worth the cost.

"Home owners might have saved tens of thousands of dollars had they held adjustable-rate mortgages rather

owners generally pay far more (0.5 to 1.2 percentage points) for that protection.

Of course, interest-only financing is just one of many creative options for the modern-day borrower. Check with your financial planner to see what kind of loan you should be taking home. ■

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Octagonal log walls, rustic ceiling beams and generous windows envelop this sitting room with warmth and light.

Rogers' House Photo

Cozy Cottage

EVEN THE BIGGEST ROOMS CAN FEEL HOMEY WITH THESE "SMALL-MINDED" DESIGN TIPS.

BY MIRA JEAN STEINBRECHER, AIA

Close your eyes and imagine your ideal log home. Most folks will picture someplace that's the epitome of comfort: small, cute, warm and inviting. You can see yourself curled up in front of the fire, reading a good book or nuzzling with the one you love.

The light is low, the air scented with fresh pine. You feel snug as the proverbial bug.

But wait! Most of the log buildings you see in today's books and magazines don't look like that at all. They are ranches, lodges, farmhouses or

other super-sized homes that just happen to be built of logs. Many don't seem a bit cozy. In fact, some feel downright hollow.

The problem isn't the size of the homes. Most log homes built today are (or will become) primary residences. So for some families, bigger is in fact better. This follows the general trend in the U.S. where, according to the National Association of Home Builders, the average home has grown 40 percent since 1973. Add the extra bulk of log walls and today's log home is likely about 2,500 square feet—not a mansion, but certainly not a cabin either.



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A prime example of cozy design, this small guest cabin features low, slanted ceilings, colorful textiles, unique art and collectibles—and even a colorful potted plant.

Brad Simmons Photo

As for people who prefer to build smaller log homes, they often have a few lofty aspirations, too—from cathedral ceilings in the great room to an expansive master bedroom.

So what can you do to avoid feeling like the Incredible Shrinking Home Owner? Simple: use these design tricks to make your log home feel cozy—no matter what its size.

Break It Up. When designing a log home, there are a few basic options: split up the floorplan into rooms of varying size; design an open floorplan that uses other elements (i.e., not walls) to create rooms; or some combination of the two. No matter which of these you choose, there are some common design techniques to make your home feel cozy.

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Once out of the dark, you'll want to close your eyes only to imagine the possibilities...



For example, I recently designed a log home with a vast great room. By putting a loft above the open kitchen and dining areas, we not only made all these rooms feel more intimate, we also dramatized the sitting area with a cathedral ceiling.

If there's no loft in your future, you can work this technique into your design. Try breaking up the vertical space in large areas with multiple ceiling heights.

Some people even go so far as to design a separate guesthouse, so they can maximize overall square footage while creating two cozy living areas.

Pitch Perfect. In Europe, traditional log buildings have lazy-looking, low-pitched roofs that hold snow in place. Inside, lower ceilings (no more than 12 feet overhead) make rooms feel

comfortable—and keep inhabitants toasty by pushing the heat back down toward the floor.

If you're planning a 1-1/2 story building with a flatter roof pitch (say, 5:12), raise the height of the exterior log walls 3 to 6 feet above the second floor surface to allow more headroom upstairs. Otherwise, eliminate the upper floor or make the house a full two-story structure.

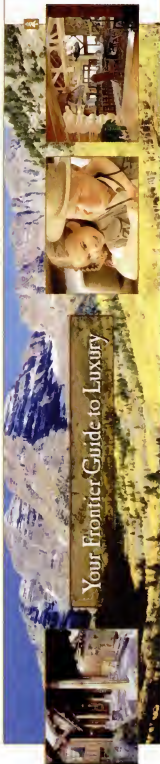
Scale Back. Larger logs demand large spaces to show off their details. If you're not planning oversized rooms, specify smaller logs—preferably 12 or fewer inches in diameter.

Also consider scale when selecting windows, which should generally take up no more than 40 percent of an external wall. Remember, you're building a log house, not a glass house with

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Bold colors add character to this log home without overshadowing its rich exterior wood.



Martin Love Photo

log accents. And not every room has to center around the view.

Cozy on the Outside. To liven up your home's exterior, try painting or staining the eaves and window trim with a vivid color. You can also add perky shutters beside single windows. Or hand-pick a decorative front door with stained glass, carvings or other unique details.

To make things even more inviting, consider a curved driveway or stone path that gives visitors a pleasant route to your home. Make the most of landscaping and other accents along the way—and keep window boxes blooming with seasonal flowers and plants. For the final touch: design a generous porch with lots of seating to accommodate family and friends.

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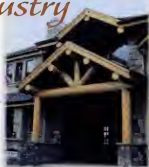


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Personal Space. Small alcoves and window seats invite solo reflection and make rooms more interesting. I recently designed a dormer with a window seat that doubles as a twin bed. As a bonus, we added extra storage space below (perfect for linens) and a bookshelf on each end.

Living Large. Big rooms need oversized furniture to appear full and warm. When buying upholstered pieces, be wary of small patterns that can get lost in larger spaces. If you long to experiment with bright colors—say, a barn-red sofa—this is the place! Another trick: create multiple conversation spots with furniture groupings anchored by a rug or table.

Soft Spoken Here. Decor has a dramatic impact on your home's "coziness" factor. To send it sky high, opt for overstuffed seating, sumptuous drapes, colorful pillows, thick rugs and hanging textiles. These soften the look and also absorb noise.

Picture This. Last but not least, add pictures, art and other collectibles to make the space your own. Try grouping a series of large framed photographs to tell a visual story on a single wall. ■

Mira Jean Steinbrecher, AIA, is a licensed architect in private practice. Her design firm, Jean Steinbrecher Architects, in Langley, Washington, specializes in log and timber buildings.

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Paul Vismara illustration

Elemental, My Dear

8 SIMPLE RULES FOR PROTECTING YOUR LOGS FROM WEATHER DAMAGE. BY JIM COOPER

Here's a conversation you don't hear too often.

Spouse No. 1: "What do you want to do this weekend, Honey?"

Spouse No. 2: "Oh, I dunno. How about a little home maintenance?"

Spouse No. 1: "That sounds great! Just promise you'll let me clean out the rain gutters?"

Spouse No. 2: "But you got to do the gutters last time!"

Though some folks will find any excuse to break out the power tools, most of us find that a few weekends a year satisfies our need for domestic upkeep. You want to spend time enjoying your log home, not stressing over how the elements could wreak havoc on it.

That said, upkeep of logs does require some work. By making smart design choices up front, you can help keep maintenance at a minimum down the road.

1 KEEP IT UP! Keep the foundation of your log home well above ground level. Building codes typically require at least 8 inches of exposed masonry or treated foundation below the wood. But logs close to the ground take a constant beating from splashing rainwater, high humidity coming off of ground vegetation, and prolonged contact with snow.

Our advice: Set your foundation so that the logs are at least 16 to 24 inches above ground level. This will greatly reduce your risk of log damage—and the need for log repair.



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5 THE GABLE GUISE. Gables—the triangular end section of wall between the two slopes of a pitched roof—are usually the most

exposed portions of a log home. This makes them incredibly vulnerable to the elements. Even if you prefer not to add a wraparound porch, consider extending overhangs in gable areas.

Our advice: Minimize gables in your roof design and you'll automatically limit potential damage—and those trips up the ladder with caulk or a bucket of sealant.

6 OUT OF THE GUTTER.

Gutters also reduce log decay by catching rain from the roof and routing through downspouts away from the house. Gutters are an essential element for any log home, but especially for those with short overhangs or logs that sit close to the ground.

Our advice: Just remember, homes in heavily forested regions require frequent gutter cleaning.

7 SEAL THE DEAL. Don't overlook one of the simplest maintenance reducers: following preservative and sealant manufacturers' recommendations. For example, some preservatives call for a "wet-on-wet" application—meaning you must apply a second coat before the first is completely dry. Others require you to prep the surface in a special way. Ignoring these guidelines will likely reduce the product's performance by half.

Our advice: On exterior walls, avoid using coatings that completely seal the logs. Varnishes, either spar or polyurethane, typically don't withstand exposure well. When they begin to deteriorate, they flake and peel like sunburned skin. They can also trap moisture inside the log, which can lead to decay. Use preservatives that repel

moisture but allow logs to breathe.

8 MIDDLE MANAGEMENT.

Many log home systems require caulking or chinking the joints between the logs. Although caulking products for log homes have improved greatly in recent years, you'll still need to do some maintenance. Some log systems also incorporate adjustments for settling.

Our advice: If your log home calls for adjustments, monitor settling monthly or quarterly for the first few years. Making small adjustments early on will keep caulk joints intact—and prevent major maintenance down the road. ■

Jim Cooper is author of Log Homes Made Easy: Contracting and Building Your Own Log Home.

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dogged DETERMINATION

One couple builds a **pet-friendly paradise** in the rural Southeast.

At the end of a long day, nothing beats the unconditional love of a dog. Unless, of course, it's several dogs.

Vastly outnumbered by their pets, Valerie and Fritz Bates live with their four-legged friends (10 dogs, 5 cats) on 7 wooded acres. They also host a revolving door of foster pets, thanks to Valerie's role as president of the local volunteer animal rescue program in Pickens, Georgia.

Five years ago, the Bates clan lived in a stick-frame house that was too formal for their lifestyle. They wanted a home as inviting and forgiving as their brood. Fortunately, Valerie is a talented interior designer and Fritz is a sought-after landscaper. Together, they designed and built

BY CANDACE ALLEN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBBINS PHOTOGRAPHY, INC.

Opposite: A sprawling porch offers plenty of space for lazy days—and 15 pets.

Both the porch and the deck have **metal roofs** —
specifically for enjoying the
pitter-patter of rain
on lazy afternoons.





Look on the Bright Side

It's true: Logs absorb more light than drywall. And homes with lodge-style high ceilings call for more lumens than traditional homes. So how do you avoid living in the dark ages?

In this home, Valerie and Fritz Bates relied on a combination of sources to create the three basic types of light: general, task and accent.

The great room alone features reading lamps and wall sconces, spot tracks above the mantle, accent lighting in the corners, incandescent recess lighting and track lights that dramatically brighten the cathedral ceiling 30 feet above. Exterior landscape lighting built into the stairwell walls illuminates the steps.

Perhaps the most original use of lighting is saved for the screened-in porch where globes shaped from twigs and wrapped in miniature white Christmas lights hang year-round from the rafters. Another bright idea: ceiling fan fixtures offer a warm glow when more light is needed.

their dream home, relying on their own skills for much of the labor.

It Takes a Village

The Bateses were considering post-and-beam construction until they saw the Barna Log Homes model in Ellijay, Georgia. Unlike other log homes they'd seen, the Barna model was light and airy, and its square hand-hewn Appalachian logs and dovetail joinery suited the couple's informal style. Inspired, Valerie worked up her own design and gave the drawings to Barna Distributor Michael Grant.

"I guess we were pretty green," Valerie says in hindsight. "But I've known Michael professionally for 15 years, so I

was sure our personalities would fit." Barna took the house plans and converted them to a log building system. "There are certain things you have to respect dimensionally with logs," Michael explains. "Valerie worked out the spatial relationships nicely, and we made sure the windows and door openings were compatible with logs."

"I feel comfortable when things line up and are centered," adds Valerie, who personalized the design with a unique layout. "Since we don't have any children, we didn't want all the bedrooms in one area." The service and common area are on the main floor. The office and master suite are upstairs, and the guest area is downstairs on the terrace level.



Opposite: In the great room, stacked stones add rustic character to a functional entertainment center.

Above: Pumpkin orange Adirondack chairs add a kick of color to the screened-in porch, where strings of lights add ambiance in the evenings.



Comfortable as the great room is, the **heart of this home** is the kitchen.



Left: Granite counters are paired perfectly with barn-red cabinetry in the kitchen.

After Barna delivered and raised the logs, Fritz took the helm. With the exception of plumbing and drywall, he and a band of willing volunteers (i.e., friends and family) made the transition from bare bones to finished project. That included framing, decking, flooring, stonework and finishing. Valerie's father did all the electrical work.

"My parents were always helping," she says. "We spent so much time together, even cooking out on the construction site. Those were fun times."

Stairway to Heaven

Valerie's design sense leans toward open, spacious rooms, but she also appreciates the element of surprise. "I don't like to walk in a front door and have everything exposed," she says. To achieve these seemingly opposite concepts, she designed a hallway that runs from the foyer clear through to the back of the house. As soon as you enter the house, you have a choice: explore doorways that entice you into the belly of the home, or yield to the tempting natural-twig railing and climb the stairway to the loft.

First-time visitors immediately ask, "Who did your railing?" Like so many of the home's details, the banister is rustic yet sophisticated, and one of a kind. Fritz crafted the railing from native mountain laurel cut from a thicket growing on his relatives' property.

Turn right from the hallway and you'll enter the great room, which continues



Unlike wood, **laminated floors resist scratches,**
so even Maggie, the 130-pound
Great Pyrenees, prances through as **light as air.**

Opposite: A hand-hewn finish gives these open beams a rough, natural-looking texture, which dovetails nicely with the tongue-and-groove paneling. **Right:** Slanted ceilings give the office space a snug feel.

the theme of bringing the outdoors inside. Two dried 12-foot mountain laurel trees accent the corners and help fill the expansive space. Rafters and beams add architectural interest above. And, throughout the day, clerestory windows create changing light patterns on the cathedral ceiling that peaks at 30 feet.

The couple chose a wood-burning stove in lieu of a fireplace and anchored it to a fieldstone hearth. Because the stove is the home's primary source of heat, they ran the stovepipe high up the interior wall instead of immediately venting it outside. Matching dry-stack fieldstone frames the wood shelving unit, while sage green plasterboard lends texture and color.

Everything in this room—and the whole house, actually—is designed for low maintenance. For instance, the flooring appears to be salvaged from an antique barn, yet it's made of durable laminate that won't scratch or fade. Unlike wood, laminate resists dog claws and cat scratches, so even Maggie, the 130-pound Great Pyrenees, prances through as light as air.

Kitchen Comfort

Comfortable as the great room is, the heart of this home is the kitchen. Here, farmhouse details (think wooden pulls on barn-red cabinets and drawers) meet



gleaming granite countertops and sleek black appliances. A 12-by-4-foot island divides the space into "his" and "hers" work areas. Open shelves and glass cabinets display pottery that the couple collected on their travels. And, for an ergonomic touch, Fritz raised the dishwasher, eliminating the need to bend down when loading dishes.

During the holidays, a current of family and friends breezes through the kitchen and dining area to the screened porch for easy alfresco entertaining. The 14-by-20-foot porch is a natural gathering place where you'll often find Valerie curled up in an Adirondack chair with a cat and a magazine.

Both the porch and the deck have metal roofs—specifically for enjoying the pitter-patter of rain on lazy afternoons—while the rest of the home is roofed with traditional asphalt shingles. In the evening, soft white lights illuminate the pediment of the porch gable.

Perfect Balance

Deep red walls, exposed beams and a wood ceiling create a warm haven in the master bedroom, which is furnished with antiques collected over the years. Valerie measured each piece and decided its placement when she drew the plans. A tumbling-blocks-pattern quilt tops off the bed with traditional comfort.



Deep red walls, exposed beams and a wood ceiling create a **warm haven** in the master bedroom.

HOME SPECS

Square Footage: 4,200

Package Price: \$98,255

Producer: Jim Barna Log Systems

A wall intersecting the roof at its peak separates the master bedroom from the bath, featuring a pebble-marble-ensconced soaking tub often bathed in light from a nearby window. Meanwhile, swirling hues of red and orange dance on the slate floor, which Fritz laid by hand.

Fritz is modest about his talents, but both Valerie and Michael call him an artist and a craftsman. He watched the construction of his prior home and thought, "This is not that complicated." Together, he and his wife built a warm, rustic home that suits their casual lifestyle.

"You don't want to have a room so perfect that you can't enjoy it," Fritz says. "I'm very much at home here."

So are the cats and dogs. ■

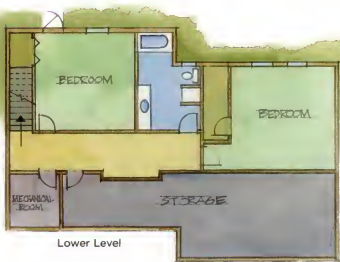
Opposite top: Slate, pebble and marble work perfectly together to create a natural mosaic in the master bathroom. **Opposite bottom:** By incorporating drywall into their home's design, Valerie and Fritz felt comfortable mixing traditional log home decor with more modern pieces.



Upper Level



Main Level

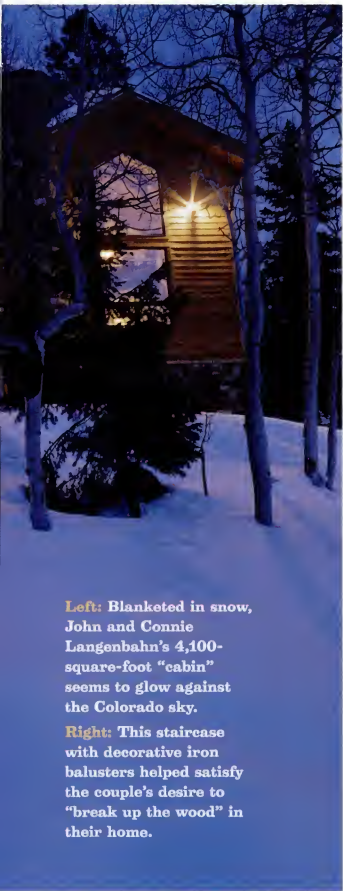


Lower Level



the little cabin that
GREW

Old West details give a large home **smaller aspirations.**



Left: Blanketed in snow, John and Connie Langenbahn's 4,100-square-foot "cabin" seems to glow against the Colorado sky.

Right: This staircase with decorative iron balusters helped satisfy the couple's desire to "break up the wood" in their home.



Some might scratch their heads when John Langenbahn refers to his three-story log home near Durango, Colorado, as "The Cabin."

Stretching an expansive 4,100 square feet, the property is hardly the humble dwelling that early Western settlers called home. Step inside, however, and you'll enter a world that feels every bit as homespun as those cabins of yesteryear.

"We wanted it small and rustic—as if it had been built a hundred years ago," John says. That was the initial idea, anyway. "But the log home we originally pictured was much smaller than the one

BY K.T. ANDERS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURIE E. DICKSON

A large, rustic log cabin interior with a high ceiling, stone fireplace, and large windows. The room features a prominent stone fireplace with a clock mounted above it. Large windows on the left side offer a view of a mountain landscape. The walls are made of log, and the ceiling is high and vaulted. A wooden coffee table and leather armchairs are visible in the foreground.

HOMETOUR

The cabin does make a few concessions to **modern architecture**: ceilings rise dramatically in some rooms, and **large expanses of glass capture the glory of the mountains** throughout the house.



we ended up building. I hear that happens a lot."

While the scale of the house grew, John and his wife, Connie, maintained their hopes for an intimate, cabin-like feel. To achieve that goal, they made design choices that blend Old West charm with modern luxury living.

Guest Appearances

The couple designed their two-bedroom home with visitors in mind. "I retired a few years ago, and most of our friends are back East," says John. "We wanted something to draw them out here."

Of course, they wanted some private space, too. So they designed a cabin just for the two of them with an adjoining one-bedroom guesthouse.

"I imagined that if an Old West prospector struck gold out here, he probably would have added on to his log cabin in a different style," says John. "That's why our guesthouse is stone and timber frame, as if it was built later on."

Connecting the two abodes is a 20-by-20-foot covered porch, complete with fireplace and stunning views. The porch not only creates a gathering place between the two buildings, but also provides a design transition. The lower portion of the structure is full logs like the cabin, while the upper portion is timber frame—a preview of the guesthouse.

The cabin does make a few concessions to modern architecture: ceilings rise dramatically in some rooms, and large

Left: Speckled with bark, the spruce walls add character while contrasting nicely with the paneling above. But it's the lofty stone hearth that steals the show in this great room.

Above: Distressed cabinets, an iron pot rack and colorful window treatments give this kitchen its "country cabin" look.

The trick to full-log home design is to **avoid log overkill**. “We learned that we needed to focus on a **balance of materials**. **Stone** was a big part of that, as were **metals and tile**,” says John.



expanses of glass capture the glory of the mountains throughout the house. In addition to two-story windows in the great room, there are bump-outs with lots of windows in the master bedroom, breakfast nook, game area and loft.

Skip-Peeled Appeal

The cabin's full-round 14-inch Engleman spruce logs from British Columbia, supplied by Bob and Lisa Rea of Log Co. Inc. in Durango, were "skip peeled" by hand, which leaves patches of bark in places. "The Engleman spruce is a light-colored wood that checks very nicely," says John. "The bark gives it a lot of character."

Bob Rea explains that the Engleman spruce was harvested from standing dead timber, which makes it dry. "That way," he says, "you don't have to worry about shrinkage and settling. As a result, there's not as much movement of the logs."

The trick to full-log home design is to avoid log overkill. "When you build a log home, you can actually end up with too much wood," says John. "We learned that we needed to focus on a balance of materials. Stone was a big part of that, as were metals and tile."



A Stone's Throw

For the home's three stone fireplaces John had hoped to use local Castle Rock from the house's excavation, but quarrying became too costly. Fortunately, stonemason Robert Brown was able to match the look with a stone he located in far-off Oklahoma.

Robert also came up with a sophisticated design for the dry-stack—using mortar behind the stones, rather than between them. "All the rocks had to be chipped to fit together," says John. "The crew spent the better part of a year doing the stone work." They also added significant stone elements to the kitchen and entrance hall.

As for the floors, contractors Brad Austin and Randy Hanford of Purgatory Mountain Homes' Austin Construction in Durango suggested using "character" cherry. "After the wood went down, it was distressed by beating and stomping nuts and bolts and rocks into the floor to gouge it," explains Brad. "John nearly had a heart attack."

Further threatening John's health, the floor was then stained solid midnight black. "But when the floor was sanded and finished with tongue oil, it was beau-



Opposite: The 20-by-20-foot covered porch connects the cabin to its timber frame guesthouse while providing a truly scenic gathering space.

Above left: An antler chandelier, decorative saddle and leather chairs with nailhead detailing give this casual dining room Western appeal.

Above middle: Originally an accident, the thick rope used to fill in gaps around the steps is arguably the home's most unique feature.

Above right: Arched entryways create an organic path from room to room.



Top left: The window seat in this bump-out adds comfort (and extra storage) to the bedroom, while the patchwork quilt and pillows add color. **Bottom left:** The couple designed this guest-house especially for visitors, while keeping the upper level of the main home all to themselves.

tiful," says Brad. "We did a black walnut inlay around the entire perimeter."

Details, Details

If the devil is in the details, then the Langenbahns' home is one bad property. Arched doorways enhance the rustic look, as do saddle-notched interior corners that show the full log ends. The master bedroom's octagonal bump-out has a built-in window seat with handy storage space underneath. And powder-coated iron balusters break up the wood, adding interest to the stairway. Even the garage doors got a dose of old-fashioned charm: glass panes and wrought iron handles on the roll-up doors evoke the look of a traditional carriage house.

One decorative detail came quite by accident. When the slab wood on the staircase didn't meet the risers evenly, contractor Brad Austin suggested adding rope to fill the gap. Presto: a highly original stair detail.

During construction, the Langenbahns got another surprise. The home's revised floorplan—redesigned when the crew learned they could not blast out



HOMESPECS

Square Footage: 4,500

Package Price: \$160,000

Designer: Michael Shave

General Contractor:

Austin Construction

Log Producer: LogCo, Inc.

the underlying bedrock—left room for nothing more than a crawlspace under the house. But it turned out those estimates were a little off.

“Lo and behold, when we put the foundation in, we discovered we had a good 10-foot ceiling down there,” says John. The couple used the space for a walkout basement with a pool table, large-screen TV and built-in bar.

Ride Off into Sunset Red

When decorating the interior, Connie chose to balance the golden log walls with strong accent colors: deep burgundy in the great room, dusty blues in the bedroom. For the kitchen, she chose deep red cabinets that were distressed and glazed to look more historic.

“The stone and wood are beautiful together, but I couldn’t see putting more neutral colors into a log home,” she says.

As a final touch in the kitchen, the couple chose countertops made with old-fashioned tile. “To us, Corian and granite countertops just looked too modern,” says John. “We wanted something that fit more with the rest of the house.”

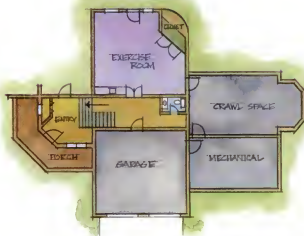
These days, the Langenbahns divide their time between their log home and their main home in South Carolina. But that may change one day. “We built the cabin planning to spend our summers here,” says John. “But, we found we love the winters, too.” ■



Upper level



Main level



Lower level

building A DREAM

A trip to Alaska inspires owners of a construction firm to personalize the term **customer satisfaction**.

For most people, deciding to build a new home requires a lot of faith, but not much work. You pick a model,

choose cabinets and grout, and anxiously wait to move in. This was not the case for John and Toni Gillard. Following a trip to Alaska, the couple decided they wanted to build a custom log home inspired by the ones they saw on their trip.

As owners of Gillard Construction in Marietta, Ohio, the couple was already knowledgeable about high-end custom homebuilding. The challenge, they decided, would be making the right design choices—and put-

BY DEIRDRE R. SCHWIESOW
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROGER WADE STUDIOS

Opposite: With the help of their two daughters, John and Toni Gillard created their 3,400-square-foot dream home atop a hill in Ohio. The large panes of glass allow for an awe-inspiring view from inside the house.







On the lower level, the front wings are faced with **cultured stone**—the same stone used to encase the gas fireplaces, which were **chosen for their high heat efficiency**.

ting in the hours and hard work to build their dream home. Fortunately, this experience turned out to be a labor of love with beautiful results.

Getting Started

After purchasing more than 60 acres of land 2 miles outside of Marietta, John started sketching plans for their log home in the fall of 2000. His daughter, Kelly, an industrial designer for Gillard Construction, then worked up the plans in a CAD program. "I didn't make many changes to his ideas, just a few minor ones to get it into the right proportions," she says.

Design completed, the Gillards attended a log show in Columbus. There they met the sales rep for B.K. Cypress Log Homes, which would ultimately become their log provider. "We went with cypress, because we knew it was a durable, good quality wood with minimal shrinkage," John says.

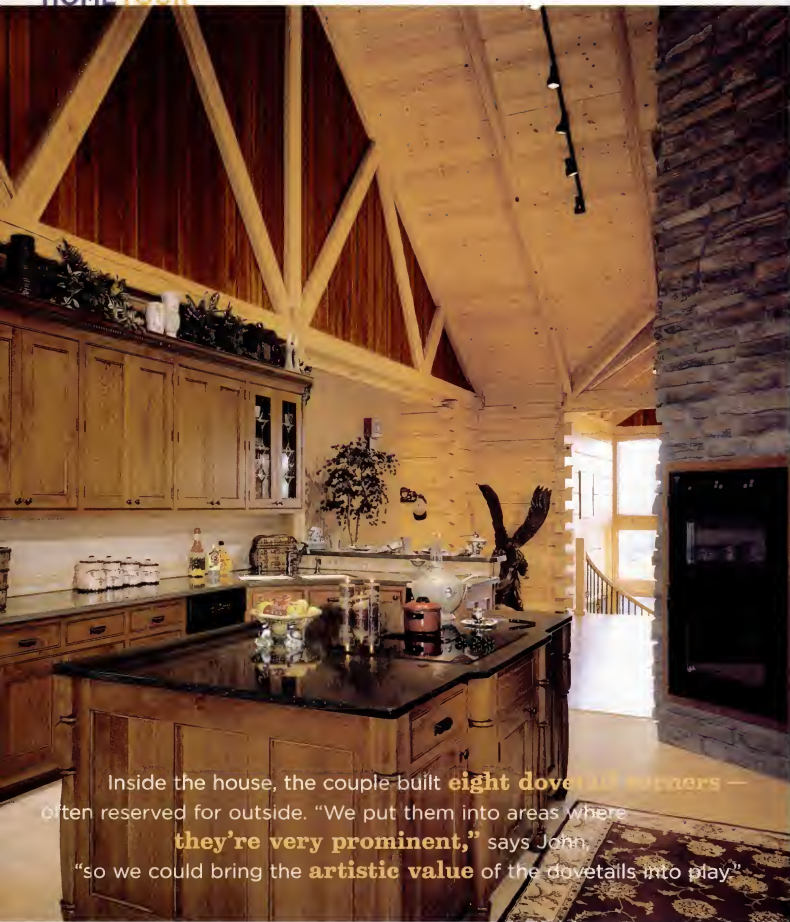
That's important when building a house as tall as the Gillards'—a whopping 22 feet. When more logs are used to create height, you run the risk of logs shrinking and causing the house to settle unevenly. Another bonus: "The fact that cypress is naturally resistant to termites also made it an attractive species," adds John.



The Gillards also wanted to replicate the look of flat-style logs used in the Marietta Valley a century ago. While visiting the B.K. Cypress mill in Florida, they found that the company's 12-inch-tall log would do the trick. They ordered a package of 6-by-12-inch flat-milled logs from Tidewater Red Cypress. They were hand-hewn on the exterior (with a chinking streak) but smooth on the interior.

The logs were delivered in November, and work on the house started in January of 2002. Although it was an

Opposite: Despite their efforts to "downsize," the Gillards couldn't resist this towering stone hearth and vaulted ceiling in the great room. **Above:** One-of-a-kind hand-carved eagles are "perched" throughout the home, while dovetail corners bring a unique outdoor feature inside.



Inside the house, the couple built **eight dovetail corners** — often reserved for outside. “We put them into areas where **they’re very prominent,**” says John, “so we could bring the **artistic value** of the dovetails into play.”



unusually cold winter, the team got the structure up by the end of February. The Gillards then spent many months finishing up the house in the evenings and on weekends. "We did a lot more sanding than people normally do," notes daughter-turned-designer Kelly. "My mom wanted the logs to look really clean and smooth."

Inside Skinny

The completed log home fulfilled John and Toni's big dream for a smaller house. "We wanted to downsize," says John, explaining that both of the Gillard daughters—Kelly and Jill (who does the accounting for Gillard Construction)—have their own homes. At the same time, they wanted a feeling of spaciousness, which they achieved with high ceilings in the

great room and a large, two-story "split" foyer with stairs going up to the main level and down to the lower level. The upward-bound staircase is curved—modeled after a favorite staircase in the Gillards' previous home.

The house has approximately 3,400 square feet of finished space, with all of John and Toni's living space on the upper level. That includes the great room, master suite, half-bath, garage and Toni's stained-glass workshop. On the lower level you'll find a rec room, two guest bedrooms, a bathroom and a garage that John uses as a workshop.

"The foyer ties it all together," says John, noting that the front wall of the center section—some 22 feet high—is

Opposite: Track lighting brightens the kitchen's custom-made cherry cabinets, which were designed to match the home's interior paneling.

Upper left: An Oriental rug and high-style china cabinet add an air of sophistication to the dining room.

Upper right: A decorative rug distinguishes the eating area from the rest of the kitchen in this open floorplan.



The front wall — some 22 feet high —
is almost **entirely glass.**

“You don’t feel like you’re inside,” says John.

Drive Time

The Gillard house rises majestically out of the side of the hill, overlooking the valley below. John designed the driveway, which is almost a half-mile long, "to follow a natural path through the trees" and preserve the heavily wooded property as much as possible. This makes the land seem less developed, which is just what the Gillards wanted. "We like the openness and the freedom of the country," John explains.

Another design consideration: the slope of the hill, which was too steep for the driveway to come straight to the front door. To lessen the incline, the driveway curves up around the house to the garage out back (at the living-room level). Then it circles down to the front of the house (at the foyer-level).



almost entirely glass. "You don't feel like you're inside." This feature makes the most of the home's stunning location: a backdrop of towering trees and undulating valleys.

On the lower level, the front wings are faced with cultured stone—the same stone used to encase the gas fireplaces, which were chosen for their high heat efficiency. The logs, treated with an oil stain on the exterior, were fitted with 10 dovetail corners on the outside. And here's an unusual choice: The couple built eight dovetail corners inside the house as well. "We put them into areas where they're very prominent," says John, "so we could bring the artistic value of the dovetails into play."

Personal Touches

John and Toni worked together on the interior of their log home. Underfoot choices include hickory floors in the living and dining areas, sleek ceramic tile in the bathrooms and neutral carpeting in the bedrooms.

Gillard Construction's in-house cabinet shop built to the couple's specifications, including cherry kitchen cabinets that were stained to match the interior paneling in the foyer. They used hickory for the bathroom cabinets, and John carved an intricate Arts and Crafts-style design around the mirror in the master bath. In the dining room, Toni made the beveled glass panels for the hutch.

Opposite: The foyer is indeed a grand entrance with its spiral staircase and uninterrupted glass walls. Stained glass windows, made by Toni Gillard, greet visitors at the door.



Left: In the master bath, glossy Corian countertops and stainless steel fixtures create a look that is sleek but still cozy. **Below:** A four-poster bed, vaulted ceiling and walk-out balcony transform this modest bedroom into a master suite.



They used **hickory** for the bathroom cabinets, and John carved an intricate **Arts and Crafts-style** design around the mirror in the master bath.

HOME SPECS

Square Footage: 3,439

Package Price: \$89,946

General Contractor: John Gillard Construction

Log Dealer: Cypress Valley Log Homes

Log Producer: B.K. Cypress Log Homes

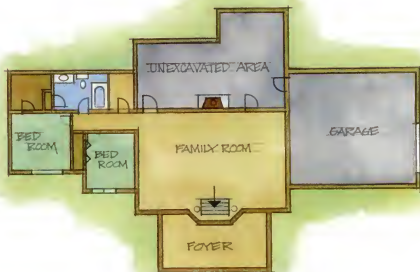
Toni also made the stained-glass panels beside the front door. They feature images of eagles, which became one of the couple's favorite symbols when Toni bought a miniature eagle statue during their trip to Alaska. More eagles appear in paintings and sculptures around the Gillard nest, which also features track lighting to highlight these collectibles.

In terms of decor, Toni aimed for a nice mix of formal and casual. "I didn't really go for any one style. We just picked things we liked, added them to what we had, and everything just came together," she says. For example, she appointed the dining room with an ornate chandelier and Oriental rugs, "so it wouldn't be so rustic."

But overall, the decor is more relaxed than in the Gillards' former home. "I think it feels homier and warmer," says Toni. "It's more 'us'—we're outdoorsy people." ■



Main level



Lower level

triumphant TRIBUTE

A **majestic mountain-top** home pays homage to one **family's roots**.

To some, growing up with four siblings in the cramped quarters of a 20-by-20-foot log structure might induce nightmares. For Tom Britt, it provided inspiration.

As a child in Star, North Carolina, Tom lived a simple life with his family—growing up in the same house where his grandmother had raised 16 children of her own. He recalls gathering water from a nearby spring, using oil lamps for light, and savoring the

BY LISA MARQUIS JACKSON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY F & E SCHMIDT PHOTOGRAPHY

Opposite: The honey-colored walls and walnut-stained circular staircase give depth to this well-appointed great room. The massive fireplace includes a gristmill grinding stone mounted by masons.

Much like the **home of Tom's youth**,
the Britt's mountain retreat remains
a central hub of family activity.



Appalachian Log Homes photos



"We have been collecting
pottery, plates, furniture and toys —
a lot of things from the 1930s —
for years," says Peggy.



aroma of pies as they baked in his grandmother's tins. A small lean-to addition off the back of the house served as the kitchen, and the main room doubled as sleeping quarters for the entire family.

"We didn't have toys," Tom recalls. "For Christmas, we maybe got an apple or an orange." Although his life was far from opulent, Tom has many fond memories of those good old days.

Flash forward three decades. For many years Tom, a self-made businessman, had been living with his wife, Peggy, at the foot of a privately owned mountain in Asheboro, North Carolina. Then one day they got the opportunity of a lifetime: to purchase that mountain, a towering 160-acre piece of property.

"I had wanted that land for as long as I can remember," says Tom. "But I never thought I'd get the chance to buy it."

Needless to say, the Britts quickly struck a deal and decided to create their dream house, which would pay tribute to Tom's childhood log home.

The Road Ahead

The Britts named the peak "Iron Mountain" and had a road cut to the top. There, perched high above the

Left: The bar, located off the entryway, dates back to the 1800s. But the vintage Coca-Cola memorabilia, as well as a small ice cream table from a corner drug store, is decidedly 20th Century.

Upstairs Downstairs

When Tom and Peggy Britt began designing their log home, they knew it would likely be the last home they'd live in.

"We've wanted this property as long as we can remember," says Peggy. "And we have no intention of leaving."

In order to make sure the couple could "go anywhere" in the house as they grew older, Tom worked with dealer Pete Pyles to incorporate an elevator that is accessible from the foyer.

As a surprise to passengers, Peggy contracted a local artist to paint a mural of a lighthouse on the inside wall. Although neither spouse needs the lift today, Peggy says "it sure keeps the kids entertained."

majestic natural beauty, they found the ideal spot to build their home—then cut and sold 21 additional lots.

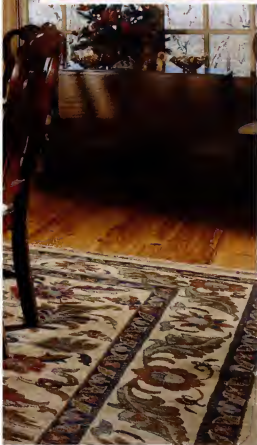
The Britts then began looking for the perfect company to make their vision a reality. Hoping to emulate his first home, Tom wanted hewn logs that would provide a flat surface on the home's exterior and interior walls. Another must: dovetailed corner joints with no overlap.

Internet research led the couple straight to Appalachian Log Homes (which specializes in old-growth Western hemlock) and ultimately to Pete Pyles, owner of Country Comfort Log Homes (an Appalachian dealer) in Tobaccoville, North Carolina.





Far left: The Britts carefully placed their windows to maximize the view—and to accommodate an antique corner cabinet salvaged from Tom's childhood home. **Left:** Local craftsmen made the custom oak cabinets. Hunter green Corian countertops are accented by a black backsplash.



Armed with a sketch Tom had created, Pete's team went over the Britt's wish list. "They had some different requests than we usually see," recalls Pete. "For example, they collect antiques and wanted to make sure they would have the space to display them." As a result, big rooms with tall ceilings became a top priority.

They started with a 30-by-40-foot center structure to house the great room and entry, then added a 30-by-30-foot wing to each side. One wing would serve as the kitchen, breakfast nook and formal dining room. The other would become two bedrooms and two bathrooms.

On the second floor, two large bedrooms with lots of storage space would flank the loft. And the workout base-

ment would include a large gathering room and an office. As a finishing touch, Tom requested a grand walnut-finished spiral staircase to connect the entry to the loft.

Prized Possessions

Once a home's layout is determined, Country Comfort requests information on the home owner's furniture and any special accommodations. Only after arranging the furniture to scale within the plan does Pete's team set the position of the windows and beams.

"We have been collecting pottery, plates, furniture and toys—a lot of things from the 1930s—for years," says Peggy. "We wanted to be able to put our collectibles out and enjoy them, not keep them stored away somewhere."

HOMESPECS

Square Footage: 8,000

Package Price: \$56,000

Architect: Pete Pyles, Country Comfort Homes

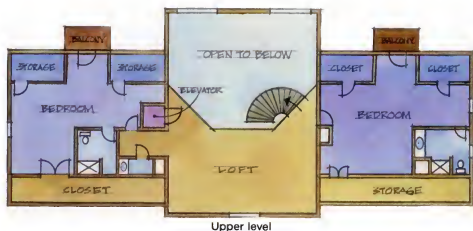
General Contractor: Ronnie Hall

Log Dealer: Country Comfort Homes

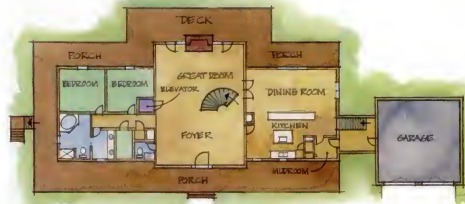
Log Producer: Dave Carter, Appalachian Log Homes, Inc.



Hoping to emulate his first home, Tom wanted **hewn logs** that would provide a **flat surface** on the home's **exterior and interior walls**.



Upper level



Main level

With careful planning, the team made room for all these treasures, including two corner cabinets rescued from Tom's childhood home, a massive antique bar from the 1800s, and two ice cream tables once used in a corner drug store.

Opposite: Positioned high atop Iron Mountain, the Britt's log home includes an 8-foot-wide deck that wraps around the entire perimeter.

Pete's design also took advantage of the property's splendid surroundings with open glass areas and an 8-foot porch that wraps around the entire house. A massive deck off the great room provides a 180-degree view. And each of the upstairs bedrooms has a private balcony.

This extensive planning process allowed the builders to "effectively use every inch of space," say Pete. "We massaged the design back and forth and planned it down to the storage, duct work and plumbing."

Tom engaged his longtime employee Ronnie Hall as the general contractor—working closely with Pete throughout the foundation, erection and building stages. Hall's refined carpentry skills and meticulous attention to detail are evident throughout the home.

Something Old, Something New

Today, the 5,000-square-foot home feels like an antique itself. The pine floors on the first level were split and crafted from old beams once belonging to a local cotton mill. The upstairs bathrooms feature antique hardware and original claw-foot bathtubs that have been restored.

For architectural interest, the family room's towering fireplace features an old gristmill grinding stone mounted by masons, and a hearth crafted with stones salvaged from Tom's boyhood log cabin. The couple's collection of antique chandeliers and fixtures make a distinctive mark in several rooms.

Much like the home of Tom's youth, the Britt's mountain retreat remains a central hub of family activity. With four grown children, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren all living in the area, there is always someone gathering for fellowship, holidays or other celebrations. They've even hosted a family wedding in the basement.

In the Britts' minds, this home is a perfect tribute to their past and their future. "I have built three houses in my life," says Tom. "And, I can honestly say there is nothing I would do differently in this one." ■

let it glow

BY JESSICA BIZIK

Time to **deck the halls!**

From **subtle to spectacular**, here are
10 shining examples of the **holiday spirit** —
log home style.

1



1. Home for the Holidays. There's plenty of room for entertaining at this white cedar, half-log home in south-western Wisconsin.

2. Y'all Come Back. A branded log sign and festive porch greet guests who arrive at Cedar Hill Ranch.



2

Town & Country Cedar Homes photo by Roger Wade

The holidays are all about **a-n-t-i-c-i-p-a-t-i-o-n**. Decorating the house...baking the goodies...wrapping the gifts...and, of course, waiting for Old Saint Nick. But here at **Log Home Design Ideas**, we decided to look backwards for inspiration this year. We went over the river and through the woods (translation: deep into our archives) to bring you a montage of beautiful vignettes from winters past. And now we must say our adieu for the year...here's hoping the holidays bring you much cheer!

Town & Country Cedar Homes photo by Roger Wade

HOLIDAYHOMES



Roger Wade Photo

3. Welcome Wagon. Red bandanas, straw hats and leather boots give a “Cowboy Christmas” feel to this Wyoming log cabin, where the living room features wagon-wheel furniture from the 1950s.

4. Fireside Chat. Laughter roars as frequently as the fire in this inviting dining room—just one of many conversation spots at the Westfield House B&B in southern Illinois.

5. Simply Irresistible. Less is more in this Tennessee bachelor’s pad, including a minimalist yet festive breakfast nook, where antique wood log walls and heart pine floors steal the show.



Westfield House photo



Brian Simmons photo



6



Franklin and Esther Schmidt photo



Roger Wade photo

6. Present Perfect. Gifts await the home owners in this Virginia farmhouse bedroom, where an antique family portrait and colonial decor evoke the spirit of Christmas past.

7. Dog Daze. In the heart of Montana, Fido settles down for a long winter's nap beneath a gothic window with rustic natural edging.



Franklin and Esther Schmitt photo

8

8. Holiday Hoopla. This brawny dining table expands to seat 12 during an Ohio family's annual festivities.

9. Skip to My Loo. Holiday flowers and guest towels brighten this tiny Colorado powder room, designed as a playful homage to old-time outhouses.

10. To Ski or Not to Ski. The outside living spaces at this Wyoming home are as inviting as the slopes—especially when there's a pot of hot cocoa brewing inside.



Laure Dickson photo



PLANPERFECT

Designer Peggy McGowen shares her **top-secret recipe** for log home kitchens in an **open floorplan**.

BY WYATT MYERS

In the old days, kitchens and dining rooms worked as separate, clearly defined areas in a house. Some kitchens had a small eating area or breakfast nook. But, in general, each room had its own unique role and the two rarely crossed paths. How things have changed.

Today many home owners are using open floorplans, where the rooms ebb and flow as freely as Madonna's chi. In smaller homes, combining the kitchen and dining room can be a practical, space-saving choice. But, even in larger homes, some folks simply prefer "sandwiching" (pardon the pun) these rooms together.

"One of the main reasons for this design change is the overall de-formalization of the home," explains Peggy McGowen, a certified master of kitchen and bath design and owner of Kitchen & Bath Concepts in Houston, Texas. "People are becoming more casual in their lifestyles and, as a result, dining and kitchen areas are becoming more integrated."

Here Peggy serves up her favorite tips for designing a top-notch kitchen in an open floorplan.



Rocky Mountain Log Homes Photo

kitchen co



This sleek kitchen seamlessly blends textures and styles, from stainless-steel appliances to Tuscan-inspired tile.

nfidential

Cabinetry is perhaps the most **powerful design** element for determining overall **kitchen style**.



Divide & Conquer

"The secret to designing an open floorplan is to make the distinction between rooms subtle, but still distinguishable," says Peggy. "One way to do this is with some sort of divider on the ceiling, such as tiles or coffering (which features recessed panels or grid-like compartments)." You can also change the floor material, or at least the pattern on the floor, between rooms. And for kitchens, many people use an island or peninsula.

Fantasy Islands

Islands and peninsulas may divide a room, but their design impact goes far beyond creating boundaries. "Some of our clients choose to have multiple islands—one for seating and another for food preparation," says Peggy.

In lieu of building two structures, you can also design a multitiered island or peninsula, where each level serves a different purpose. In addition to dividing the rooms, this creates a central entertaining or buffet area, while keeping food prep cleanly out of sight. Peggy's last word of advice: "To separate two rooms, opt for an island, which permits better traffic flow."

Cabinet Fever

Cabinetry is perhaps the most powerful element for determining overall kitchen style. "For log homes, I'm partial to cabinets made from knotty, gnarled woods with natural glazes," says Peggy, who often sends her clients to check out all the styles at Frontier Cabinetry (cabinetsforyou.com), which specializes in cabinets for log homes.

Counter Culture

Countertop design options have exploded in recent years. Now home owners can choose among granite, slate, soapstone and a variety of stone-like composites such as Corian, which is nonporous and comes in dozens of colors.

Peggy likes using unfinished stone countertops to create a decidedly rustic feel. "Stone countertops look great glossy, but I think the unfinished stone works better in log homes," she says.

Flash Backsplash

If you like the rustic look of stone countertops, why stop there? "Natural stone is quite popular for backsplashes as well," says Peggy. "You can even personalize them with custom designs or favorite quotes."

Everything But the...

When it comes to kitchen sinks, our designer-in-residence has one mantra: Bigger is better.

"These days the designers at my firm generally select sinks that have a large basin on one side and a smaller basin on the other," Peggy says. "This lets people soak a pot on one side and rinse dishes at the same time."

Another new trend: under-counter sinks. "Mounting the sink below the counter just looks nicer in contemporary kitchens," she says.

Appliance Compliance

So far, our designer's ideal kitchen has a big sink, knotty wood cabinets, and stone countertops and backsplashes. And in her mind, there's no better complement to these elements than stainless steel.

"No other material can give you the same clean, professional look in the kitchen," says Peggy. "Several of my clients have installed large stainless-steel ovens with high BTUs—and a few have even installed smaller stainless-steel refrigerators specifically for produce in their kitchen islands."

Of course, there's one downside to this trend: fingerprints, also known as the kryptonite of stainless steel. But fear not. Some manufacturers (such as Whirlpool) are beginning to develop appliances that have a sleek stainless-steel look but still resist smudges.

Hood Ornaments

"Many people are using the hood above their stoves as a mantel of sorts," says Peggy. "In contemporary kitchens, the hood becomes a great place for photographs and knickknacks. It's just another way to personalize the space. For homes without a fireplace, it's a nice substitute."

Foot Loose

Modern homeowners are saying "bye-bye" to linoleum flooring. The hot new



Bigger is better when it comes to sinks, as seen in this two-sided beauty from *Home Storage Idea Book* by Joanne Kellar Bouknight. We also love the easy-access storage for baking sheets below.

materials: wood and stone. Lucky for us, both look great in log homes.

Solid-wood floors are especially well suited to an open floorplan, because they can help carry a particular look from room to room. Stone (or "faux stone" porcelain) tile also does the trick.

While all these ideas may help inspire your inner designer, none of them are set in stone. Building

the perfect log home is a personal process. And, when it comes to kitchens, it only makes sense to follow your taste. ■

Wyatt Myers is a magazine editor and freelance writer. When he's not writing magazine articles, Wyatt's usually engrossed in home-improvement projects for his home in Des Moines, Iowa.

hearth to hearth

BY MURRAY ARNOTT

Hot Tips for Designing a **Fabulous** (and Efficient) **Fireplace**



Whether it is a grand masonry fireplace stretching high through a cathedral ceiling or a small gas fireplace tucked into a

corner, your hearth will no doubt be a focal point of your log home. But a hearth is more than just a place to light a fire. By following these simple guidelines, you can create a powerful architectural element that gives you much enjoyment—and warmth—for years to come.

Light My Fire

The first question must always be: What kind of heat source should I choose? The answer depends on how you want to use your hearth.

If you want an open, crackling blaze—and don't mind the effort of cutting or buying firewood—then you'll do fine with a wood-burning fireplace. If you'd rather just flick a switch for instant gratification, go for gas.

On the other hand, if your main goal is to create an efficient heat source for your home, then a wood or pellet stove may suit you best. Or con-

sider a masonry heater. That's a wood-burning fireplace designed to generate maximum heat through a combination of secondary combustion and radiant heat from a large surface area. To further maximize your hearth's heating power, locate it on an interior wall, preferably near the center of the home.

Pretty vs. Practical

Although an open fire is very inviting, it consumes considerable fuel as well as oxygen from your room. With a sealed fire, you burn less fuel, but you also lose the sound effects and visual impact of a roaring fire. In fact, with many wood-burning stoves, you can't even see the flames. If you do opt for a covered flame, ceramic glass doors radiate considerably more heat than tempered glass doors.

Heat Things Up

With an open fire, most of the heat goes up the chimney. Well-designed fireplaces and stoves have air spaces around the combustion chamber to pick up heat and transport it to the room through convection. Some units also have ducts that direct the heat into other rooms. Otherwise, a large ceiling fan can drive rising warm air into other rooms.

In the first home I built, I installed a "water jacket" (a heat exchanger that transferred the heat of the fireplace into water that was piped through the fireplace). Circulating the warm water into a storage tank provided nearly all of our hot water needs.

Efficiency Counts

Most factory-built fireplaces and stoves come with an efficiency rating. As a general rule for open-burning fireplaces, the larger the firebox, the lower the efficiency.

Gas fireplaces can be very efficient, but select a unit that lets you control the flame from flicker to full-burn.



Images: Left: iStockphoto; Right: iStockphoto

Continuously burning pilot lights can use up a significant amount of fuel, so you may want to consider a unit with electronic ignition. Two exceptions: if you use your fireplace for primary heat, or if power outages are common in your area, opt for the pilot light.

Money to Burn

The expense of a fireplace often comes down to the enclosures and stonework. Backing two units against each other—say, in the great room and an adjacent bedroom—can reduce the cost of both. Sometimes two rooms can even share one fireplace. Several zero-clearance fireplaces are open on two sides, creat-

Opposite: This fireplace, made from walnut and marble, provides a stunning focal point for an elegant master bedroom.

Above: Create a warm and welcoming environment by positioning furniture right around your hearth.



Roger Wade Photo

ing a divider between two areas. There are also three-sided and four-sided fireplaces for even more viewing choices.

Room with a View

I've seen many scenic views compromised by placing an imposing fireplace right in the middle of the vista. Consider locating your hearth to the side of the view. During the day, you can focus on the scene outside. At night, you can face the fire.

Let's Face It

While the fire is likely the reason you want a hearth in the first place, the surrounding materials have much greater architectural impact. Although you can use materials like tile and adobe, I prefer the look of natural stone in log homes. There are hundreds of varieties, colors and tex-

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Opposite: A cover that slips right over the existing mantel "tops off" this handsome stone hearth.

Above: This fire-engine-red stove warms up the decor while serving a functional purpose.

tures to consider. And, please, design a hearth that features the stone, not the mortar. I have seen beautiful stone facings ruined by overly large mortar joints.

Even with a freestanding stove, attractive stonework will protect surfaces and radiate heat. If you have a small fireplace in your bedroom, a tile-surround using slate or other natural materials may be less expensive than stone.

New Heights

For gas fireplaces, keep the hearth flush with the floor. For wood-burning fireplaces, I recommend raising the firebox to offer a better view. And make sure your hearth extends far enough to contain errant ashes and wood splinters.

OLD WORLD KITCHENS AND BATHS

This must have design guide is filled with 165 photos depicting the design trend of today's home. Enjoy these marvelous kitchens and baths as you travel through the bygone era of European style. By Tina Skinner & Melissa Cardona. 2004 Paperback. 112 pages.

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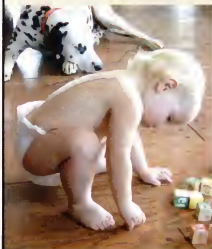
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Burning Books

Fired up to design your own hearth? These books will light the way.

Fire Spaces: Design Inspirations for Fireplaces and Stoves by Tina Skinner. Fuel your imagination! These 350 gorgeous fireplaces and stoves snap, crackle and pop right off the page—and they'll make finding your signature style a snap, too. Most photos include surrounding decor, so you can imagine how your hearth will fit in with your overall design. (Code: A0421, \$34.95)

Building a Fireplace: Step-by-Step Instructions for Contemporary to Classic Styles by Bernd Grützmaier. Feeling crafty? Whether you want a classic fireplace or prefer a more modern look, these detailed instructions walk do-it-yourselfers through the entire design process: laying the base, building the fire chamber, setting the façade...you get the idea. More than 300 color photos and diagrams. (Code: A0449, \$19.95)

What's in Style: Fireplaces by Joanne Still. Learn the latest design trends for traditional fireplaces and gas units through this consumer-friendly guide. Get tips on mantel displays, outdoor fireplaces, furniture and accessory arrangement, and much more. An additional manufacturer's guide seals the deal with contact information, areas of specialty, and valuable web sites of hearth experts around the country. (Code: A0409, \$12.95)

— Sara Scott



To order these and other great titles from the **Log Home Design Ideas Bookstore**, just visit lhd.com, or call 800-850-7279.

If you plan to split wood on your hearth, it should be durable and easy to clean. I recommend large, flat stones or ceramic pieces (preferably a single slab) for the top of the hearth. Then you can cover the front of the hearth with the same stone as the main fireplace.

Smart Storage

Work convenient wood storage into your plan from the beginning. For wood-burning fireplaces, I prefer to recess a storage area into the stonework next to the firebox. Line it with a durable material such as slate or concrete. Or build two areas—one for large firewood and one for kindling and paper.

In some homes, I've included dumb waiters to transport firewood from a basement up to the hearth. But if you do store firewood in the basement, take measures to avoid potential insect problems. Outdoor pass-throughs can also work, but they're more difficult to seal and secure.

Inner Workings

Some of the most striking hearths use niches and built-ins to add both vertical and horizontal interest to their enclosures. For example, you can create shelves or recesses for displays of art, memorabilia or books. You might even line recesses with an accent material such as a different type of stone.

To make the most of your mantel, shelves and niches, use a combination of ambient and accent lighting with dimmers. In addition to highlighting your stonework, art and other displays, you'll be able to adjust the mood in your room, from festive to romantic. ■

Murray Arnott designs custom log homes throughout North America. He also serves as a director of the International Log Builders' Association.

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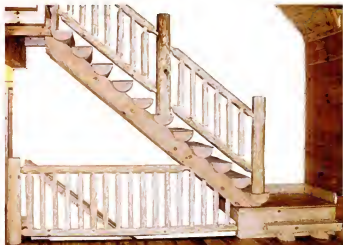
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Lumberjack Log Homes		www.lumberjack-log-homes.com	800-683-4421
M&T Heritage Corporation	38	036 www.systembuilt.com	888-539-1860
Mallard Cove Custom Log Homes		www.mallardcove.com	

* Those companies listed without page numbers can be found in our log or product classifieds beginning on page 124.

Company Name*	Page	Reader Service Number	Web Site	Toll-Free	Company Name*	Page	Reader Service Number	Web Site	Toll-Free
Hallard Cove Realty			www.buymontanaandland.com		Rocky Top Log Furniture & Railing	39, 95	049	www.rockytoplogfurniture.com	800-332-1143
Maple Island Log Homes	122		www.mapleisland.com		Sashco Sealants	17	050	www.sashco.com	800-767-5656
Meadow Valley Log Homes			www.mvloghomes.com	800-491-4423	Satterwhite Log Homes	12	051	www.satterwhite-log-homes.com	800-777-7288
Menco Corporation	107	037	www.menco.com	800-972-7693	Sawmill Direct Log Homes LLC			www.sawmildirectlog.com	
Midwest Wholesale Log Supply	105	038	www.wholesalelogsofamerica.com		Schroeder Log Homes Supply	108	052	www.loghelp.com	800-359-6614
Moose Creek Log Homes			www.moosecreekloghomes.com		Scottsdale Art Factory	10		www.artfactory.com	800-232-0008
Moose Mountain Log Homes Inc.	32		www.moosemountain.com		Sherry Grimes Designs			www.sherrygrimesdesigns.com	
Mountain Ranch Lighting	102		www.mtbranchlighting.com	888-520-7046	Sierra Log Homes	35	053	www.sierraloghomes.com	800-899-0680
Mountain-Lake Log Homes			www.bestloghomes.com & www.bestlogdecor.com		Sitka Log Homes			www.sitkaloghomes.com	
Mylen Stairs	27	039	www.mylen.com	800-431-2555	Skyline Woods	110		www.skylinewoods.com	800-898-9971
Neville Log Homes	13, 111	040	www.nevlog.com 800-635-7911 (toll-free), 866-573-1866 (Canada)		Southland Log Homes			www.southlandloghomes.com	800-641-4754
New Frontier Log & Timber Homes	33		www.logestate.com	800-285-8563	Specialty Woodworks Co.			www.montana.com/specialtywoodworks	
Norse Log Homes	104	041	www.norseloghomes.com	877-390-3344	Steel Silhouettes			www.steelsilhouettes.com	
Northern Forest Products			www.cedarlumber.com		Steven's Point Log Manufacturing			www.pointlogs.com	
Northern Forest Products			www.cedarsaunas.com		Stone Mountain Cabins			www.stonemountaincabins.com	
Northwest Metal Designs	101	042	www.nwmetaldesigns.com		StoneMill Log Homes	31	054	www.stonemill.com	800-438-8274
Old California Lantern Company	102	043	www.oldcalifornia.com	800-577-6679	Strongwood Log Homes			www.strongwoodloghome.com	
The Original Log Cabin Homes	23	044	www.logcabinhomes.com	800-562-2246	Suwannee River Log Homes	123	055	www.srlloghomes.com	800-962-5647
Original Log Homes Ltd.	15	045	www.originallog.com	800-664-9344	Suwannee River Log Homes Dealer			www.logtreasures.com	
Original Old Timer Log Homes & Supply Inc.			www.oldtimeloghomes.com	800-467-3006	Tennessee Log Homes	19	056	www.tnloghomes.com	800-251-9218
Outaouais Log Homes	112		www.outaouaisloghomes.com		Tenonizer Technology			www.tenonizer.com	
Pan Abode Cedar Homes			www.panabodehomes.com		TJ's Wood Products	34, 112	057	www.tjswood.com	800-530-0275
Paradise Mountain Log Homes Inc.			www.paradiseloghomes.com		Tomahawk Log & Country Homes Inc.			www.tomahawklog.com	800-544-0636
Perma-Chink Systems Inc.	19		www.permachink.com	see ad for regional numbers	Town and Country Cedar Homes	17		www.cedarhomes.com	800-968-3178
Pioneer Log Furniture			www.pioneerlogfurniture.mb.ca/		Treehouse Log Homes of the NW			www.treehouseloghomes.com	
Pioneer Logs Ltd.			www.pioneerlogstltd.com		True North Log Homes	7	058	www.truenorthloghomes.com	800-661-4628
Precision Craft Log & Timber Homes	118	046	www.precisioncraft.com	800-729-1320	Twin Creeks Log Home Supply	104	059	www.twincreeksloghomes.com	800-299-8981
PS Log Furniture	94		www.pslogfurniture.com	866-472-5240	Vision Metalworks	94		www.visionmetalworks.com	888-388-8833
Radiantec	91		www.radiantec.com	800-451-7593	Ward Cedar Log Homes	5	061	www.wardloghomes.com	800-341-5566
Rapid River Rustic Inc.			www.rapidriverrustic.com	800-422-3327	Weatherall Company Inc.	23	062	www.weatherall.com	800-367-7068
Real Log Homes			www.reallloghomes.com		Whispering Pines Log Homes			www.wplloghomes.com	
Roaring Fork Custom Billiards & Furniture	99	047	www.rfbh.com		Wilderness Log Homes	C-4, 120	063	www.wildernessloghomes.com	800-707-0449
Rocky Mountain Log Furniture	100	048	www.rmlf.com	800-305-6030	Willow Brook Log Homes			www.willowbrookloghomes.com	
Rocky Mountain Log Homes	28-29		www.rmlh.com		Woodstock Soapstone	90		www.woodstock.com	888-664-8888
					The Woolly Sheep			www.thewoollysheatp.com	866-932-9665

Guiding Light

Tips for buying the perfect chandelier.

A fabulous chandelier is like the icing on the cake—topping off a room's overall "look" to create a sweet ensemble. But which shape and style should you choose? These tips will light the way.

SIZE MATTERS. To pick the right proportions for your room, do some simple math. Add the room's width and length together, then divide by two. This number in feet should be the diameter of your chandelier in inches.

TABLE IT. As a general rule, when placing a chandelier over a table, the diameter should be at least 12 inches narrower than your table's length.



When in doubt, bigger is better. Too often a chandelier can look too tiny for its surroundings.

HUNG JURY. Hang your chandelier about 30 inches above the table in order to provide good illumination—and avoid bumped heads!

MOOD LIGHTING. While a chandelier's main job is to provide light, it can also set the mood—from holiday parties to a quiet dinner for two. For many options, don't forget the dimmer.

HIGH STYLE. Lighting should fit in with the rest of your decor. A traditional crystal chandelier shines brightest in a formal room furnished with antiques and rich fabrics. A welded iron chandelier looks great in a more rustic space.

SKY'S THE LIMIT. Despite these so-called rules, don't be afraid to experiment. Casual eating areas are a great place to show off a little personality and flare with a fun (or even funky) light fixture.

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December Hit List

Love to shop in your pajamas? Skip the mall and check out our monthly guide to the best online stores and catalogs.



WHERE ART THOU? Beauty is in the eye of the beholder—and our peepers can't get enough of the new **Artful Home** catalog from The Guild (877-223-4600, www.guild.com). Featuring the work of more than 1,000 North American artists, the catalog's furnishings, glass, ceramics, jewelry, prints and other items are shipped directly to you from the artists' studios. Our favorite: the vibrant blown-glass holiday ornaments seen above.

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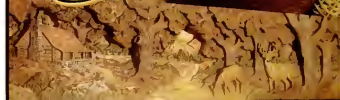
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- 8:30 Registration/visit exhibits
9:30 Welcome and introductions
Six steps to success
9:45 Step 1: Budget decisions
Step 2: Design decisions
Step 3: Deciding on a log home company
11:15 Step 4: Deciding on a lender
Step 5: Deciding on a builder
12:30 Lunch (on your own)/visit exhibits
2:00 Step 6: Build My Log Home construction slide show
3:00 Visit exhibits



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Dec. 5, 2004: Stamford, CT
Jan. 16, 2005: San Diego, CA
Jan. 23, 2005: Kansas City, MO
Jan. 30, 2005: Chantilly, VA
Feb. 13, 2005: Nashville, TN
Feb. 20, 2005: Seattle, WA
Feb. 27, 2005: Jacksonville, FL

March 6, 2005: Chicago, IL
March 13, 2005: Sacramento, CA
March 20, 2005: Denver, CO
April 3, 2005: Scottsdale, AZ
April 10, 2005: Santa Barbara, CA
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April 24, 2005: Meadowlands, NJ
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Chair in bedroom: Shaker Workshops, P.O.

Box 8001, Ashburnham MA 01430-1213; 800-840-9121; www.shakerworkshops.com

Chairs in sunroom: Appalachian Home

Furnishings, 1355-C Old Philadelphia Road, Jasper GA 30143; 706-692-3283

Countertops: Home Depot, 2455 Paces Ferry

Road, Atlanta GA 30339; 770-433-8211; www.homedepot.com

Draperies in dining room, window treat-

ments in bathroom: Smith & Noble, 1181 California Ave., Corona CA 92881; 909-734-4444; www.smithnoble.com

Hanging light in dining room: Kichler

Lighting, P.O. Box 318010, Cleveland OH 44131; 216-573-1000; www.kichler.com

Kitchen counters: G & L Marble Atlanta, Inc.,

129 Armour Drive, Atlanta GA 30324; 404-261-7444



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Window treatments: Levolor Home Fashions, 4110 Premier Drive, High Point NC 27265; 336-812-8181; www.levolor.com
Windows: Peachtree Doors and Windows, 2744 Ramsey Road, Gainesville GA 30501; 800-477-6544; www.peach99.com
Wood stove units in great room: Waterford Irish Stoves, 6988 Venture St., Delta BC V4G1H4, Canada; 866-867-4328; www.waterfordstoves.com



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Cabinetry: Custom Cupboards, 3738 S. Norman St., Wichita KS 67215; 316-529-3431
Chinking, sealants: Weatherall Co., 106 Industrial Way, Charlestown IN 47111; 800-367-7068; www.weatherall.com
Designer: Michael Shave, TB5, Inc., P.O. Box 81, Durango CO 81302; 970-259-5800
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Doors, front door: Southwest Door, 9280 E. Old Vail Road, Tucson AZ 85747; 520-574-7374; www.southwestdoor.com
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Table and chairs in dining room, bed in bedroom: Hickory White, 856 7th Ave., Hickory NC 28602; 828-322-8624;
www.hickorywhite.com
Table and chairs in breakfast area: Kincaid Furniture, 52464 S.W. Norwood St., Lenoir NC 28645; 800-242-1671;
www.kincaidfurniture.com
Tile flooring in foyer: Dal-Tile, P.O. Box 170130, Dallas TX 75217; 800-933-8453;
www.daltile.com
Track lighting in kitchen: Halo Lighting, 400 Busse Road, Elk Grove Village IL 60007; 708-956-8400
Tubs: MTI Whirlpools, 670 North Price Road, Sugar Hill GA 30518; 800-783-8827;
www.mtiwhirlpool.com
Walnut eagle in great room: Stan Schu, 614 Woodchuck Lane, Georgetown KY 40324; 502-863-5883
Windows: Crestline, 888 Southview Drive, Mosinee WI 54455; 715-693-7000;
www.crestlinewindows.com
Wood carved eagles on beam in the great room: Joni Hamari, P.O. Box 403, Hunt TX 78024; 830-238-4080;
www.customsculpture.com
Wood flooring: Launstein Hardwood Floors, 384 S. Every Road, Mason MI 48854; 888-339-4639; www.launstein.com



Dream 58-67

Bathroom faucets: Moen, 25300 Al Moen Drive, North Olmstead OH 44070; 800-289-6636; www.moen.com
Chinking: Sashco Sealants, 10300 E. 107th Place, Brighton CO 80601; 800-767-5656;
www.sashco.com

Countertops in kitchen and bathroom: DuPont Corian, Chestnut Run Plaza, 21 Maple Run, P.O. Box 80721, Wilmington DE 19880; 800-426-7426;
www.dupont.com

Front door: Pinecrest, 2118 Blaisdell Ave., Minneapolis MN 55404; 800-443-5357;
www.pinecrestinc.com

Hanging lights in foyer, dining room and breakfast area: Kichler Lighting, P.O. Box 318010, Cleveland OH 44131; 216-573-1000;
www.kichler.com

Knobs/hardware: Emtek Products, 15250 E. Stafford St., Industry CA 91744; 800-356-2741; www.emtekproducts.com

Log dealer, general contractor, tree trunk coffee table and end stand, end tables in great room, kitchen cabinets, china cabinet in dining room, stained glass windows, and vanity: Cypress Valley Log Homes/Gillard Construction, 1308 Greene St., Marietta OH 45750; 740-376-9744, www.cypressvalleyloghomes.com

Log producer, stairs: B K Cypress Log Homes, P.O. Box 191, Bronson FL 32621; 800-553-1564; www.bkcyprss.com

Red leather chairs and ottomans: Hancock & Moore, 166 Hancock & Moore Lane, Hickory NC 28681; 828-495-8235;
www.hancockandmoore.com

Roofing: GAF Material Corp., 1361 Alps Road, Wayne NJ 07470; 201-628-3000;
www.gaf.com



Tribute 68-75

Builder/General contractor: Ronnie Hall, P.O. Box 121, Franklinville NC 27248; 336-824-4080

Log dealer, architect/designer: Country Comfort Homes, 1235 Gunsmoke Road, Tobaccoville NC 27050; 336-983-6478;
www.countrycomforthomes.com

Log producer: Appalachian Log Homes, 11312 Station West Drive, Knoxville TN 37922; 865-966-6440;
www.alhloghomes.com

Rugs: Capel Rugs, 240 Peachtree St. NW, Suite 6F2, Atlanta GA 30303; 404-577-4380; www.capelrugs.com

Stairs: Southern Staircase, 6025 Shiloh Road, Alpharetta GA 30005; 770-888-7333; www.southernstaircase.com

CALENDAR

Although **Log Home Design Ideas** tries to verify the accuracy of the information that appears in the Calendar listing, dates may change after the issue has gone to press. Therefore you should confirm any event before attending.

Alabama

OPEN HOUSES: Birmingham, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, Southland Log Homes, Info: 888-883-8884; **Dayton**, Dec. 18, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 877-601-1276; **Somerville**, Dec. 18, Real Log Homes, Info: 256-778-7111.

Arkansas

OPEN HOUSES: Crawford, Dec. 18, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 479-474-2832; **Mena**, Dec. 4, Real Log Homes, Info: 479-394-5525.

California

LOG RAISINGS: Grass Valley, Dec. 4, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 530-273-9334; **OPEN HOUSES:** Auburn, Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 800-554-5647; **Colfax**, Dec. 4, 18, Real Log Homes, Info: 530-346-6433; **Grass Valley**, Dec. 5, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 530-273-9334; **Paso Robles**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Real Log Homes, Info: 805-239-5966; **Sonoma**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Real Log Homes, Info: 209-586-2584; **Twin Lake**, Dec. 4, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 209-586-7725; Dec. 12, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 800-420-4888; **Yuba City**, Dec. 4, 18, Real Log Homes, Info: 909-799-0034; **TOURS:** Big Bear Lake, Dec. 4, 5, 18, 19, Real Log Homes, Info: 909-866-7766; **Shingletown**, Dec. 4, Real Log Homes, Info: 530-474-3503.

Colorado

LOG RAISINGS: Montrose, Dec. 11, 12, Real Log Homes, Info: 970-249-5353; **OPEN HOUSES:** Cotopaxi, Dec. 11, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 800-313-4721; **Fairplay**, Dec. 4, Lincoln Logs Ltd.,

The Original, Info: 719-838-0177; **Fort Collins**, Dec. 4, 5, 18, 19, Real Log Homes, Info: 970-221-4544; **Gandy**, Dec. 14, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 970-472-2604; **Livermore**, Dec. 18, 19, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 970-221-9554; **Montrose**, Dec. 11, Real Log Homes, Info: 970-249-5353; **New Castle**, Dec. 18, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 970-984-0909; **Wheat Ridge**, Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 26, Modern Log Homes, Info: 303-728-7825; **Woodland Park**, Dec. 4, Real Log Homes, Info: 719-687-9366.

Connecticut

OPEN HOUSES: Redding, Dec. 4, 5, Country Log Homes, Info: 203-938-0750; **Winchester**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 866-545-6319; **SEMINARS:** Stamford, Dec. 5, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 800-326-9644; The Log Home Seminar, Info: 800-782-1253.

Delaware

OPEN HOUSES: Newark, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Real Log Homes, Info: 302-366-1311; **Williamstown**, Dec. 4, 5, Lakeside Log Homes, Info: 856-728-9551.

Florida

OPEN HOUSES: Brooksville, Dec. 11, 12, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 352-754-9082; **Sanford**, Dec. 5, Casual Country Log Homes, Info: 800-700-3990.

Georgia

OPEN HOUSES: Atlanta, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, Southland Log Homes, Info: 888-883-8884; **Blairsville**, Dec. 11, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 706-745-9176; Dec. 11, Wilderness and Greatwood Log Homes, Info: 706-379-0606; **Ellijay**, Dec. 18, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 877-424-5647; **Hawessee**, Dec. 4, 5, 18, 19, 8, K Cypress Log Homes, Info: 866-573-5997; **Hacon**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, Southland Log Homes, Info: 888-883-8884; **SEMINARS:** Blue Ridge, Dec. 18, Log Homes of America, Info: 706-495-5647; **Ellijay**, Dec. 4, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 877-424-5647; Dec. 4,

Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 706-276-7350; **Hawessee**, Dec. 4, 5, 18, 19, B.K. Cypress Log Homes, Info: 866-573-5997; **Young Harris**, Dec. 11, Wilderness and Greatwood Log Homes, Info: 706-379-0606.

Idaho

OPEN HOUSES: Coeur d'Alene, Dec. 4, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 208-689-3395; **Idaho City**, Dec. 4, 5, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 208-392-4907.

Illinois

OPEN HOUSES: Dahinda, Dec. 5, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 309-879-2032; **East Peoria**, Dec. 5, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 309-689-5647; **Hebron**, Dec. 12, Real Log Homes, Info: 815-648-4322; **Lake Carroll**, Dec. 4, Wisconsin Log Homes, Info: 630-66-0829; **La Salle**, Dec. 4, Ward Cedar Log Homes, Info: 815-223-6050; **Milstadt**, Dec. 5, 12, 19, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 618-538-7418; **Prophetstown**, Dec. 11, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 800-941-7679; **Williamsville**, Dec. 11, Real Log Homes, Info: 877-579-8344.

Indiana

LOG RAISINGS: Lawrenceburg, Dec. 1, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 877-564-5641; **OPEN HOUSES:** Bryant, Dec. 4, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 260-997-6536; **Chesterton**, Dec. 4, 18, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 219-395-9540; **Dearborn County**, Dec. 11, 12, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 877-564-5641; **Fishers**, Dec. 11, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 317-539-5374; **Goshen**, Dec. 11, Crystal Valley Log Homes, Info: 574-875-8642; **Marion**, Dec. 7, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 765-664-4032; **Moore Hill**, Dec. 4, 5, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 877-564-5641; **Sellersburg**, Dec. 12, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 812-246-4508; **Shelbyville**, Dec. 12, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 317-835-8086; **Weyau**, Dec. 5, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 800-446-1948; **Winchester**, Dec. 4, 5, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 812-726-4849; **Walkerton**, Dec. 18, Wilderness and

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Greatwood Log Homes, Info: 574-586-3857; **West Harrison**, Dec. 11, Southland Log Homes, Info: 812-637-8600; Dec. 12, Tennessee Log Homes, Info: 812-637-8886. **WORKSHOPS:** **Chesterton**, Dec. 4, 18, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 219-395-9540.

Iowa

OPEN HOUSES: **Battle Creek**, Dec. 4, 11, 19, Golden Eagle Log Homes, Info: 712-210-2140; **Council Bluffs**, Dec. 19, Wilderness and Greatwood Log Homes, Info: 712-545-3540; **Dow City**, Dec. 5, 7, 12, 14, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 712-614-3672; **Earlville**, Dec. 5, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 817-218-5517; **Harvey**, Dec. 4, Gastineau Log Homes, Info: 641-628-9310; **Waukegan**, Dec. 4, Expedition Log Homes, Info: 888-458-8564; **Weaver**, Dec. 11, Real Log Homes, Info: 319-372-2831.

Kansas

LOG RAISINGS: **Leavenworth**, Dec. 3, 4, Real Log Homes, Info: 888-494-8564; **Topeka**, Dec. 10, 11, Real Log Homes, Info: 888-494-8564; **Wichita**, Dec. 17, 18, Real Log Homes, Info: 888-494-8564. **OPEN HOUSES:** **Manhattan**, Dec. 4, 18, Real Log Homes, Info: 888-494-8564; **St. George**, Dec. 10, Real Log Homes, Info: 888-494-8564.

Kentucky

OPEN HOUSES: **Crittenden**, Dec. 11, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 859-485-1855; **Shelbyville**, Dec. 4, 5, Real Log Homes, Info: 800-927-0590; Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, Southland Log Homes, Info: 888-883-8884; Dec. 7, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 502-434-0360.

Maine

OPEN HOUSES: **Lincoln**, Dec. 11, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 817-794-0111; **Raymond**, Dec. 11, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 202-655-5415.

Maryland

OPEN HOUSES: **Elkton**, Dec. 11, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 410-398-9641; **Gambrells**, Dec. 11, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes,

Info: 888-817-5647; **Monkton**, Dec. 13, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 410-357-8325; **Oakland**, Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, Architect's Choice, Info: 800-980-5647; **White Hall**, Dec. 12, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 888-817-5647; **SEMINARS:** **Frederick**, Dec. 18, Wilderness and Greatwood Log Homes, Info: 301-838-0550; **Oakland**, Dec. 16, 17, Architect's Choice, Info: 800-980-5647.

Massachusetts

OPEN HOUSES: **Charlemont**, Dec. 4, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 800-507-8847; **Mendon**, Dec. 12, Real Log Homes, Info: 800-634-4838.

Michigan

OPEN HOUSES: **Ann Arbor**, Dec. 5, Huron River Log Homes, Info: 810-231-4707; **Canadian Lakes**, Dec. 5, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 888-751-9424; **Defton**, Dec. 19, Golden Eagle Log Homes, Info: 269-806-9924; **Escanaba**, Dec. 19, Golden Eagle Log Homes, Info: 866-789-9940; **Fennville**, Dec. 11, 19, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 269-543-4886; **Fenton**, Dec. 12, Hiawatha Log Homes, Info: 810-735-9019; **Harbor Springs**, Dec. 4, Wisconsin Log Homes, Info: 517-348-2684; **Jackson**, Dec. 5, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 517-668-8829; **Lapeer**, Dec. 12, Real Log Homes, Info: 810-797-3136; **Lewiston**, Dec. 18, Golden Eagle Log Homes, Info: 866-303-0176; **Mason**, Dec. 18, Golden Eagle Log Homes, Info: 517-694-3832; **Millington**, Dec. 5, Wilderness and Greatwood Log Homes, Info: 989-871-9961; **St. Clair**, Dec. 12, Real Log Homes, Info: 810-367-7521.

Minnesota

OPEN HOUSES: **Albert Lea**, Dec. 4, Golden Eagle Log Homes, Info: 877-256-8890; Dec. 11, Expedition Log Homes, Info: 800-426-5647; **Alexandria**, Dec. 12, Wilderness and Greatwood Log Homes, Info: 320-309-6722; **Becker**, Dec. 4, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 763-263-6610; **Glenwood**, Dec. 5, Real Log Homes, Info: 320-634-1918; **Granite Falls**, Dec. 16, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 320-564-5741; **Jordan**, Dec. 11, 12, Wisconsin Log

Homes, Info: 952-492-2870; **Little Falls**, Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Gastineau Log Homes, Info: 612-789-6364; **Minneapolis**, Dec. 12, Wilderness and Greatwood Log Homes, Info: 888-434-5647; **North Branch**, Dec. 18, Golden Eagle Log Homes, Info: 651-674-0554; **Park Rapids**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Golden Eagle Log Homes, Info: 888-864-3245; Dec. 4, Wilderness and Greatwood Log Homes, Info: 218-573-5760; **Somersett**, Dec. 4, Northland Log Homes, Info: 888-408-5647; **South Haven**, Dec. 11, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 520-235-8105; **Winona**, Dec. 4, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 507-454-4331.

Mississippi

OPEN HOUSES: **Florence**, Dec. 4, 18, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 901-932-0015; **Jackson**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, Southland Log Homes, Info: 888-883-8884.

Missouri

LOG RAISINGS: **Lone Jack**, Dec. 5, Honest Abe Log Homes, Info: 800-343-5448. **OPEN HOUSES:** **Ava**, Dec. 5, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 866-566-8473; **Butler**, Dec. 12, Honest Abe Log Homes, Info: 800-343-5448; **Concordia**, Dec. 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 28, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 877-891-4381; **Hatton**, Dec. 18, Gastineau Log Homes, Info: 800-654-9251; **Hollister**, Dec. 4, Gastineau Log Homes, Info: 417-334-2569; **New Bloomfield**, Dec. 3, 4, Gastineau Log Homes, Info: 573-896-5122; **St. Louis**, Dec. 12, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 636-452-3647; **Warrensburg**, Dec. 12, Honest Abe Log Homes, Info: 800-343-5448. **WORKSHOPS AND TOURS:** **Hollister**, Dec. 18, Gastineau Log Homes, Info: 417-334-2569.

Montana

OPEN HOUSES: **Columbus**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Mallard Cove Custom Log Homes, Info: 866-600-1100.

Nebraska

OPEN HOUSES: **Omaha**, Dec. 19, Wilderness and Greatwood Log Homes, Info: 712-545-3540.

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Nevada

OPEN HOUSES: Las Vegas, Dec. 4, 5, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 702-452-4476; **Virginia City**, Dec. 4, 18, Real Log Homes, Info: 775-947-4411.

New Hampshire

OPEN HOUSES: Gorham, Dec. 3, 10, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 603-752-4101; **Hancock**, Dec. 11, Hilltop Log Homes, Info: 603-255-6606; **Hudson**, Dec. 4, 5, Northern Log Homes, Info: 877-923-1005.

New Jersey

OPEN HOUSES: Clinton, Dec. 11, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 908-637-8658; **Cranford**, Dec. 12, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 609-758-9484; **Franklinville**, Dec. 11, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 856-728-6467; **Howell**, Dec. 4, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 732-938-9090; **Knowlton**, Dec. 5, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 908-637-8658; **Newton**, Dec. 5, Real Log Homes, Info: 908-684-4290; Dec. 11, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 973-579-3936; **Williamstown**, Dec. 4, 5, Lakeside Log Homes, Info: 856-728-9551.

New Mexico

OPEN HOUSES: Alto, Dec. 4, 5, 12, 18, 25, Lodge Logs, Info: 505-336-2676; **Chama**, Dec. 4, 5, 12, Real Log Homes, Info: 877-709-4433; **Cloudcroft**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, Lodge Logs, Info: 800-896-9936.

New York

OPEN HOUSES: Bokeville, Dec. 11, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 845-637-6445; **Brewerton**, Dec. 11, Wilderness and Greatwood Log Homes, Info: 315-676-5180; **Buffalo**, Dec. 13, 14, Architect's Choice, Info: 800-980-5647; **Catskill**, Dec. 11, Real Log Homes, Info: 585-374-5647; **Elmira**, Dec. 4, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 607-319-4570; **Faura Bush**, Dec. 4, 18, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 518-768-8019; **Ganewar**, Dec. 11, 12, Wilderness and Greatwood Log Homes, Info: 518-732-5647; **Canfield**, Dec. 11, 12, Wilderness and Greatwood Log Homes, Info: 845-756-0225; **Canfield**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Lok-N-Logs, Info: 800-558-4407; Dec. 11, 12, Beaver Mountain Log & Cedar Homes, Info: 800-233-7270; **Jamestown**, Dec. 15, 16, Architect's Choice, Info: 800-980-5647; **Lafayette**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Lok-N-Logs, Info: 800-232-8937; **Lake George**, Dec. 4, 5, 11, 18, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 800-833-2461; **Phelps**, Dec. 4, 5, Real Log Homes, Info: 800-736-4360; **Pittsburgh**, Dec. 11, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 518-566-7495; **Rochester**, Dec. 9, 10, Architect's Choice, Info: 800-980-5647; **Sherburne**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Lok-N-Logs, Info: 800-343-8928; **Webster**, Dec. 19, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 585-872-5168; **SEMINARS:** Hancock, Dec. 11, Beaver Mountain Log & Cedar Homes, Info: 800-233-2770; **WORKSHOPS:** Hancock, Dec. 11, Beaver Mountain Log & Cedar Homes, Info: 800-233-2770.

North Carolina

OPEN HOUSES: Boone, Dec. 11, 18, B.K. Cypress Log Homes, Info: 828-268-1591; **Charlotte**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, Southland Log Homes, Info: 888-883-8884; **Dillsboro**, Dec. 3, 11, 12, Jim Barna Log Systems, Info: 888-409-5647; **Greensboro**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, Southland Log Homes, Info: 888-883-8884; **Lincolnton**, Dec. 11, 12, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 704-472-1446; **Mebane**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 877-902-5544; **Sandford**, Dec. 19, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 919-775-1977; **Sparta**, Dec. 4, 11, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 336-372-1555; **Spring Hope**, Dec. 12, Appalachian Log Structures, Info: 252-478-5610; **Sylva**, Dec. 3, 12, 21, Jim Barna Log Homes, Info: 888-409-5647.

North Dakota

OPEN HOUSES: St. Thomas, Dec. 4, Wisconsin Log Homes, Info: 701-251-6411.

Ohio

OPEN HOUSES: Amelia, Dec. 12, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 859-485-8655; **Bellefontaine**, Dec. 11, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 937-599-2090; **Brockville**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 937-833-5757; **Canton**, Dec. 18, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 800-713-0798; **Delaware**, Dec. 11, Real Log Homes, Info: 800-733-6426; **Felicity**, Dec. 11, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 513-876-2475; **Greenwich**, Dec. 4, Wilderness and Greatwood Log Homes, Info: 888-547-5647; **Harrison**, Dec. 12, Tennessee Log Homes, Info: 800-637-8886; **Hillsboro**, Dec. 4, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 800-712-5534; **Klausman**, Dec. 5, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 320-826-0722; **Liberty Center**, Dec. 5, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 419-533-2401; **Urbana**, Dec. 5, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 330-222-0403; **Lucasville**, Dec. 5, 12, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 740-259-2629; **Medina**, Dec. 5, 19,

Real Log Homes, Info: 330-769-4245; **Middlefield**, Dec. 4, 5, Back to Basics Log Homes, Info: 440-693-4697; **Old Washington**, Dec. 12, Real Log Homes, Info: 740-489-5833; **Sugar Creek**, Dec. 18, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 800-686-5647; **Warren**, Dec. 5, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 330-847-6635; **West Harrison**, Dec. 11, Southland Log Homes, Info: 812-637-8600.

Oklahoma

OPEN HOUSES: Checotah, Dec. 11, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 918-473-7020; **Edmond**, Dec. 11, Logworks, Info: 405-359-9885; Dec. 11, Real Log Homes, Info: 800-713-0058.

Oregon

OPEN HOUSES: Bend, Dec. 11, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 888-303-5647; **Elmira**, Dec. 4, Real Log Homes, Info: 800-935-1004; **Hermiston**, Dec. 5, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 541-561-8699; **Roseburg**, Dec. 5, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 541-957-9185.

Pennsylvania

OPEN HOUSES: Benton, Dec. 11, 12, 18, 19, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 570-425-6165; **Blakeslee**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 800-640-2564; **Erie**, Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, Architect's Choice, Info: 800-980-5647; **Hidden Valley**, Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, Architect's Choice, Info: 800-980-5647; **Landsberg**, Dec. 18, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 610-255-0328; **Lattrobe**, Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, Architect's Choice, Info: 800-980-5647; **Levittown**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 800-346-7903; **Ligonier**, Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, Architect's Choice, Info: 800-980-5647; **Littlestown**, Dec. 11, Appalachian Log Structures, Info: 717-359-7035; **Lock Haven**, Dec. 4, 5, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 800-299-5706; **Mill Hall**, Dec. 11, 12, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 570-748-5611; **New Cumberland**, Dec. 11, 12, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 800-532-0455; **State Run**, Dec. 11, 12, 18, 19, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 800-567-3344; **Valencia**, Dec. 18, 19, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 724-898-1816; **Venango County**, Dec. 4, 5, Jim Barna Log Systems, Info: 877-524-5647; **Woolrich**, Dec. 18, 19, Markovich Construction Inc., Info: 570-769-6400; **SEMINARS:** Hidden Valley, Dec. 14, 15, Architect's Choice, Info: 800-980-5647; **Lattrobe**, Dec. 13, Architect's Choice, Info: 800-980-5647; **Pittsburgh**, Dec. 18, 19, Architect's Choice, Info: 800-980-5647.

South Carolina

OPEN HOUSES: Campobello, Dec. 4, Gastineau Log Homes, Info: 864-457-2444; **Greenville**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, Southland Log Homes, Info: 888-883-8884; **Irmo**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, Southland Log Homes, Info: 888-883-8884; **SEMINARS:** Pickens, Dec. 11, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 877-452-5647.

Tennessee

OPEN HOUSES: Spencer, Dec. 10, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 876-4084; **Springfield**, Dec. 4, 18, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 800-643-2020; **Wear Valley**, Dec. 4, 18, B.K. Cypress Log Homes, Info: 423-421-3007; **SEMINARS:** Sevierville, Dec. 11, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 800-456-4665.

Texas

OPEN HOUSES: Bryan, Dec. 18, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 866-534-8735; **Collinsville**, Dec. 22, Hiawatha Log Homes, Info: 940-457-9303; **Ganbury**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, Lodge Logs, Info: 877-573-5322; **Heolates**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, Lodge Logs, Info: 800-896-9936; **Wimberley**, Dec. 4, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 800-660-0946.

Utah

OPEN HOUSES: Duck Creek, Dec. 3, 4, 10, 11, Real Log Homes, Info: 435-682-2020; **Morgan**, Dec. 18, Real Log Homes, Info: 801-876-2043.

Vermont

OPEN HOUSES: Hartland, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Real Log Homes, Info: 800-984-8452; **New Haven**, Dec. 8, 22, Real Log Homes, Info: 802-453-7833; **West Danville**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Real Log Homes, Info: 800-896-4930.

Virginia

OPEN HOUSES: Christiansburg, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, Southland Log Homes, Info: 888-883-8884; **Fredericksburg**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, Southland Log Homes, Info: 888-883-8884; Dec. 5, Tennessee Log Homes, Info: 800-752-0990; **Front Royal**, Dec. 5, Wilderness and Greatwood Log Homes, Info: 866-774-5647; **Harrisonburg**, Dec. 6, Dogwood Mountain Log Homes, Info: 540-453-8872; **Isle of Wight**, Dec. 11, 12, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 573-242-6570; **Louisa**, Dec. 11, 12, Kuhn Bros. Log Homes, Info: 540-967-3668; **Unionville**, Dec. 12, Heritage Log Homes, Info: 540-854-4926;



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Nov. 14, 2004: Orlando, FL
Dec. 5, 2004: Stamford, CT
Jan. 16, 2005: San Diego, CA
Jan. 23, 2005: Kansas City, MO
Jan. 30, 2005: Chantilly, VA

Feb. 13, 2005: Nashville, TN
Feb. 20, 2005: Seattle, WA
Feb. 27, 2005: Jacksonville, FL
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March 13, 2005: Sacramento, CA
March 20, 2005: Denver, CO



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Williamsburg, Dec. 4, 18, Excalibur Log Homes, Info: 866-891-2396; **Winchester**, Dec. 19, Hiawatha Log Homes, Info: 866-504-5647; **SEMINARS: Louisa**, Dec. 11, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 540-967-3668; **Williamsburg**, Dec. 11, Excalibur Log Homes, Info: 866-891-2396.

Washington

OPEN HOUSES: Okanogan, Dec. 4, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 888-564-5487; **Port Angeles**, Dec. 4, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 360-457-8247; **Spokane**, Dec. 11, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 877-564-4273.

West Virginia

OPEN HOUSES: Wardensville, Dec. 12, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 304-897-8300.

Wisconsin

OPEN HOUSES: Burlington, Dec. 4, Wisconsin Log Homes, Info: 262-539-2402; **Cambridge**, Dec. 4, Wisconsin Log Homes, Info: 877-425-4241; **Lake Geneva**, Dec. 11, Golden Eagle Log Homes, Info: 262-749-8686; **Menasha**, Dec. 18, Lincoln Logs Ltd., The Original, Info: 608-495-3800; **Minocqua**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Golden Eagle Log Homes, Info: 715-356-3302; **Neenah**, Dec. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 31, Pinecroft Log Homes, Info: 800-729-6152; **Somerset**, Dec. 4, Northland Log Homes, Info: 888-408-5647; **Wautoma**, Dec. 4, Wisconsin Log Homes, Info: 920-379-2544; **Webb Lake**, Dec. 11, Hiawatha Log Homes, Info: 715-635-6278; **Wisconsin Rapids**, Dec. 4, 11, 18, Golden Eagle Log Homes, Info: 800-270-5025.

Wyoming

OPEN HOUSES: Centennial, Dec. 18, 19, 27, 28, Real Log Homes, Info: 303-435-0006.

CANADA

Quebec

OPEN HOUSES: Ste. Marie Salome, Dec. 5, 12, Kuhns Bros. Log Homes, Info: 450-839-1182.

Winners Circle

Congratulations to these Second Prize winners of our 10th Anniversary Log Home Giveaway: Soon they will start receiving their free one-year subscription to Log Home Design Ideas. We'll announce 10 more winners next month!

Mark E. Audie	Fairbanks, AL
Linda Breveleri	Fossil, OR
Vicki Burnett	Batesville, AR
Richard Gaunt	Sacramento, CA
D. Lee Graham	Springfield, MO
Julie Gyorki	Macedonia, OH
Todd Holverson	Davenport, IA
Arlenthia Joyner	Roanoke, NC
Diane Megivern	Lakeland, FL
Rosemary Rosinski	Princeton, IL

All Second Prize winners are still eligible for the Grand Prize (a log home package from Appalachian Log Homes) and the First Prize (a handcrafted log billiard table from Roaring Fork Custom Billiards & Furniture).



THE BIG CREEK

This distinctive log home combines American tradition with contemporary design. The main floor includes a great room, spacious kitchen and spiral staircase. An 800-square-foot master suite features a bath and a nearby hot tub room. Laundry facilities are between the kitchen and three-car garage. The lower level includes guest quarters with three bedrooms and three bathrooms, as well as a large entertainment room.



Second Floor



First Floor



Lower Level

Total Area: 7,300 sq. ft.

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Victor MT 59875
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Fax: 250-573-4471
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THE GLACIER

The Glacier is a two- to three-bedroom home with an open floorplan. The kitchen flows into the dining and great rooms to create a spacious feel. With a vaulted roofline in the great room, you'll get the sense of a much larger home at a very reasonable cost.

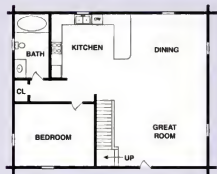
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Second Floor



First Floor

Total Area: 1,437 sq. ft.

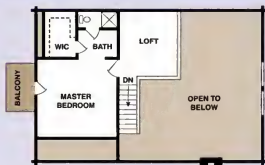


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Second Floor



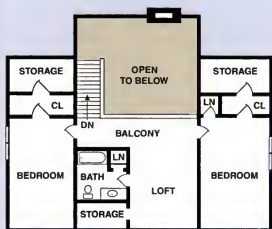
First Floor

Total Area: 1,692 sq. ft.
Package Price: \$45,426



THE LENOIR

The Lenoir plan features a centrally located great room and living area. The master bedroom suite includes two walk-in closets, a full bath and access to the sunroom. The kitchen and morning room offer plenty of room for entertaining. Upstairs holds an additional one to two bedrooms, a full bath and a balcony overlooking the great room below.



Second Floor



First Floor

Total Area: 3,203 sq. ft.
Package Price: Call for prices

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THE LODGE

The focal point of The Lodge is definitely the eye-catching, massive expanse of glass on the elevation of this home. Not only does the glass wall give this home a ski lodge look and feel, but it also opens the great room to the outdoors. This spacious three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath home covers 2,747 square feet and has an attached 28-by-24-foot garage with a 14-by-8-foot shop area.

4421 Plover Road
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Toll-Free: 800-270-5025
Fax: 715-421-2002
Email: goldnegl@wctc.net
www.goldeneagleloghomes.com



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Second Floor



First Floor

1st Floor: 1,743 sq. ft.
2nd Floor: 1,004 sq. ft.

Total Area: 2,747 sq. ft.
Package Price: \$330-360,000
(Completely Built)



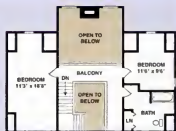
THE MOUNTAIN VIEW

We call it The Mountain View, but if this log home were built with a view of an ocean, lake or forest it would still look great. The open-concept design of the great room, dining room and kitchen flowing together allows for easy entertaining. This home is warm and comfortable just the way it is, but it can easily be expanded to fit your needs.

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Second Floor



First Floor

1st Floor: 1,056 sq. ft.
2nd Floor: 628 sq. ft.

Total Area: 1,684 sq. ft.
Package Price: \$215-230,000
(Completely Built)



BATTLE CREEK III

The Battle Creek III shows the true meaning of roominess. Sit back and relax in its spacious rooms while enjoying the solitude of your private estate. The Battle Creek III is the hallmark of the Battle Creek series and is designed for the owner who enjoys the cultured amenities that only a modern log home can provide.

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Second Floor



First Floor

Total Area: 3,019 sq. ft.
Package Price: \$152,051



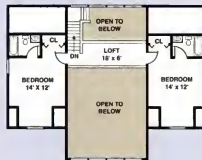
NORTH RAPIDS

The North Rapids combines contemporary styling with traditional log home design. You will enjoy relaxing on its vast covered porches or taking in views from its spacious living room in this elegant but rustic log home. For more information on the North Rapids or other Battle Creek plans, call Battle Creek Log Homes.

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www.battlecreekloghomes.com



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Second Floor



First Floor

Total Area: 2,265 sq. ft.
Package Price: Starting at \$108,994



MACKENZIE

What a grand home. The Mackenzie offers plenty of space and wonderful amenities. The formal dining room shares a pass-through with the kitchen to make entertaining easier. Spend pleasant evenings in the covered courtyard enjoying the fireplace or relax on the wraparound porch. The large master suite features his and her walk-in closets as well as privacy from the rest of the house. Precision Craft's professional architectural staff will be happy to design a unique log or timber home just for you.



Second Floor



First Floor

1st Floor: 4,448 sq. ft.
2nd Floor: 1,419 sq. ft.

Total Area: 5,867 sq. ft.
Package Price: Call for prices

711 E. Broadway
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Email: info@precisioncraft.com
www.precisioncraft.com





McKINLEY

A dramatic entry will lead you into this magnificent floorplan. The McKinley offers open great room and dining areas surrounded by windows and entries that lead to separate decks. The secluded master bedroom has an impressive dressing room and private master bath. An open staircase leads to a floating loft bridge with three bedrooms, two baths and a sitting area.

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Second Floor



First Floor

1st Floor: 2,104 sq. ft. Total Area: 3,156 sq. ft.
2nd Floor: 1,052 sq. ft.



TAHOE

The Tahoe floorplan takes advantage of panoramic views through its classic glass prow and open cathedral ceilings. Experience the open feeling of the kitchen, dining and great room areas and enjoy the covered porches. All three spacious bedrooms offer walk-in closets and private baths. Upstairs, the open loft is filled with light from the glass prow. Precision Craft specializes in custom design and can modify this or any plan.

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Second Floor



First Floor

1st Floor: 1,658 sq. ft. Total Area: 2,811 sq. ft.
2nd Floor: 1,153 sq. ft.



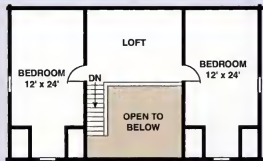
MONTANA

The Montana is just like its namesake: large and sprawling. This design has remarkable character with large rooms, gable dormers and an open loft. Our complete package includes sub-floor, pre-cut kiln-dried log walls, Andersen windows, Thermo-Tru doors, loft system, complete roof system, interior frame and T&G pine to finish, solid wood interior doors, lock-sets and much more. Call to ask about our shipping special.

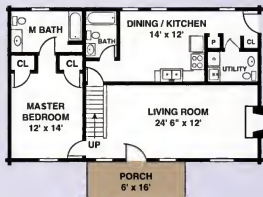
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Second Floor



First Floor

Total Area: 1,776 sq. ft. Shell Package: \$39,750
Log Wall Package: \$27,700 Complete Package: \$52,162



MOUNTAIN VIEW

The Mountain View offers 2,184 square feet of living space. It has three bedrooms plus a loft and two baths. A lovely glass package brings an abundance of light with a cathedral ceiling. The generous living area opens onto a spacious deck. Your family will love all this home has to offer. Our complete package includes sub-floor, pre-cut kiln-dried log walls, Andersen windows, Thermo-Tru doors, loft system and more.

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Fax: 603-747-3340
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Second Floor



First Floor

Total Area: 2,184 sq. ft. Shell Package: \$80,700
Log Wall Package: \$48,200 Complete Package: \$99,980



MAPLE CREEK

At Expedition Log Homes, our experienced team knows what distinguishes a memorable home...like hand-picked, kiln-dried pine or cedar, cut only from the heart of the log and skillfully crafted by hand with a drawknife. A traditional-looking log home cabin with a twist, the Maple Creek features an open great room and dining and kitchen center with cathedral ceilings. Enjoy a panoramic view of the great outdoors in your sunken sunroom or retreat to your loft for private reflection.

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Expedition
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Second Floor



First Floor

Total Area: 2,424 sq. ft.
Package Price: Call for prices



JOYCE

How can you resist the wraparound porch? This design includes a master bedroom downstairs or upstairs and a loft for entertaining guests or overflow sleeping quarters.

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Second Floor



First Floor

1st Floor: 988 sq. ft. Total Area: 1,688 sq. ft.
2nd Floor: 700 sq. ft.



GRAND VISTA

Greatwood's newest floorplan is the perfect design for outdoor lovers. The prow front extending from the open great room and foyer features lots of glass and offers a spectacular view. Upstairs, two bedrooms are separated by an open loft that looks down on the great room below and out through the prow windows. The master suite and combination kitchen/dining room complete this new and exciting design.



Second Floor



First Floor

Total Area: 3,074 sq. ft.
Package Price: Call for prices

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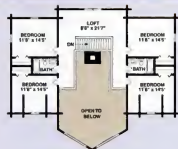
Greatwood®
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BLACKHAWK

The Blackhawk design presents an open and spacious floorplan. It features interior log walls with arches in the great room, while the log-post-and-prow front produces a dramatic effect. The Blackhawk design also has an attached three-car garage.



Second Floor



First Floor

1st Floor: 1,818 sq. ft. Total Area: 3,108 sq. ft.
2nd Floor: 1,290 sq. ft. Package Price: Call for prices

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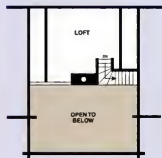


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LAKEWOOD

Grace, charm and practicality are the trademarks of the Lakewood model by Lodge Logs. The central living area is ideal for entertaining guests. Bedrooms are isolated on the wings for privacy. The central fireplace is a natural divider that doesn't interfere with the sense of openness. This design is extremely flexible — easily adapted to any family's needs.



Second Floor



First Floor

1st Floor: 1,723 sq. ft. Total Area: 1,948 sq. ft.
2nd Floor: 225 sq. ft. Package Price: Call for prices

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PLAN 9801

A grand gable with massive towering log posts is a true reflection of the innovation that awaits within this plan. Creativity is unleashed in this exceptional home, from structural uniqueness to extraordinary interior details. The daring combination of eclectic elements ranges from formal to whimsical. The massive log timbers handcrafted by Maple Island Log Homes harmoniously unite the diversity of styles found in this lake-front lodge. A second floor bridge above the dual entries connects the main home to a tucked-away carriage house apartment. Each Maple Island log home is unique and custom designed to meet the needs of the client.



Total Area: 5,019 sq. ft.

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THE MANATEE

This home offers a living area with a fireplace and a dining room tucked off the kitchen. Upstairs is an open loft with a secluded master bedroom and private balcony.



Second Floor



First Floor

1st Floor: 1,264 sq. ft. Total Decks: 360 sq. ft.
 2nd Floor: 819 sq. ft. Total Area: 2,083 sq. ft.
 Covered Porch: 640 sq. ft.

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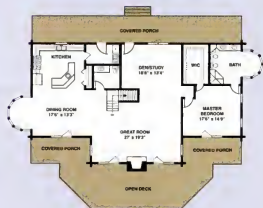


THE SHENANDOAH

This home provides many views from anywhere in the home. Large bow windows increase the light in both the dining room and the master bath, while both upstairs bedrooms have 8-foot dormers for maximum exposure.



Second Floor



First Floor

1st Floor: 2,044 sq. ft. Total Decks: 502 sq. ft.
 2nd Floor: 1,048 sq. ft. Total Area: 3,092 sq. ft.
 Covered Porch: 800 sq. ft.

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Two Hearths Beat as One: This porch-perfect fireplace shares a chimney with a second fireplace in the home's great room. For the "inside" skinny, just turn the page.

Dave's Top Five List

WHEN DESIGNING YOUR OWN FIREPLACE, CONSIDER THESE HOT TIPS FROM DESIGNER DAVE JOINER

1 REAL BRICK OR STONE FIREPLACES cost more and take longer to build than manufactured stone fireplaces. Ask your dealer about special opportunities that may save you money on building materials.

2 SOME BRICK AND STONE PATTERNS won't look as attractive with logs. Compare your ideal fireplace with pictures in log home and design magazines.

3 AVOID OVERSIZED FIREPLACES unless you're going for a truly dramatic look.

4 WHEN CHOOSING A "HOME" for your fireplace, consider how that placement will impact your furniture arrangement. (Remember: avoid glare on TV screens!)

5 IF THE FIREPLACE WILL BE AN INTEGRAL PART of your heating system, work with a professional to make sure it's built in the most efficient (yet aesthetically desirable) location.



We asked designer Dave Joiner from Jim Barna Log Systems to tell us about his **favorite fire-place**. Instead, he picked two!

To see the other fireplace—and read **Dave's Top 5 design tips**—just flip back to page 151.

Inner (and Outer) Glow

A FIRESIDE CHAT
WITH DAVE JOINER
BY BRIAN HAEFS

"Seems like stone fireplaces have always been part of log homes—and I particularly love this pair from the Ellijay model by Jim Barna. The two hearths, one indoor (above) and one outdoor (page 151), share a common chimney—a smart way to double your viewing pleasure and save money. I like how the different styles of grout and stone add ambiance to each room. And the recessed chimney breast in the great room is a nice finishing touch. It's the perfect spot to hang your prized artwork or hunting trophy."

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